TOKYOPOP
BLADE OF HEAVEN
ART BY
KYUNG-IL YANG
8
STORY BY
YONG-SU HWANG

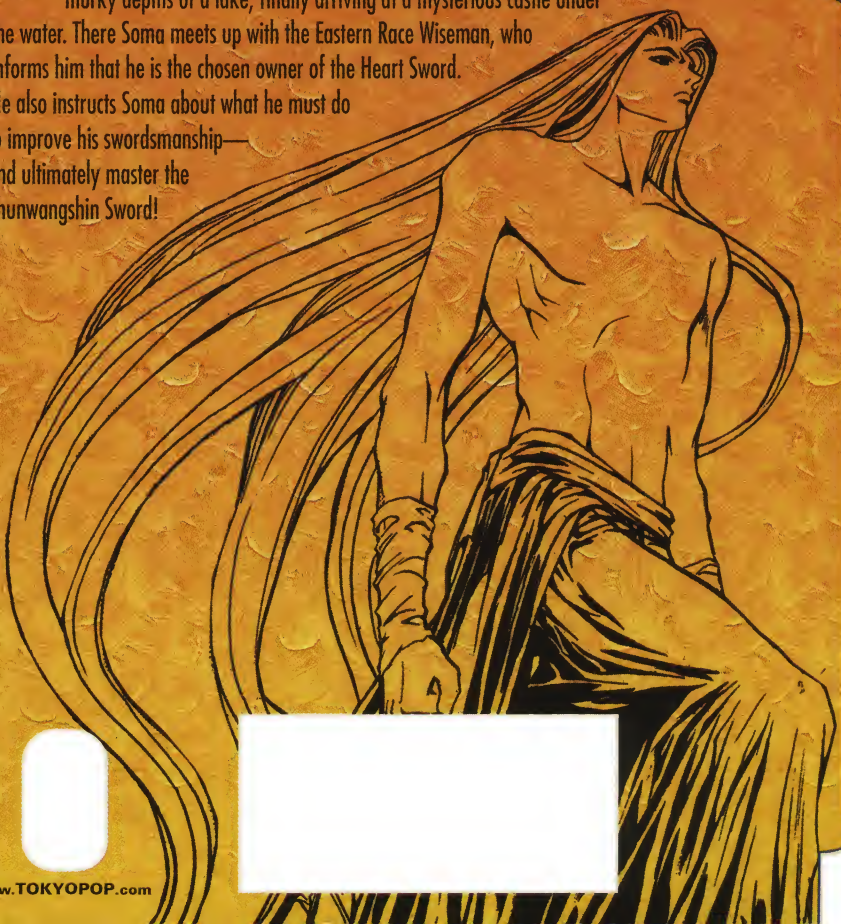
BLADE OF HEAVEN
ART BY
KYUNG-IL YANG
6
STORY BY
YONG-SU HWANG

BLADE OF HEAVEN
ART BY
KYUNG-IL YANG
8
STORY BY
YONG-SU HWANG

Manga
Action/Fantasy
US $9.99
CAN $13.99
UK £6.99

BLADE OF HEAVEN™

When Soma and friends fall through a whirlpool, they plummet into the murky depths of a lake, finally arriving at a mysterious castle under the water. There Soma meets up with the Eastern Race Wiseman, who informs him that he is the chosen owner of the Heart Sword. He also instructs Soma about what he must do to improve his swordsmanship—and ultimately master the Chunwangshin Sword!

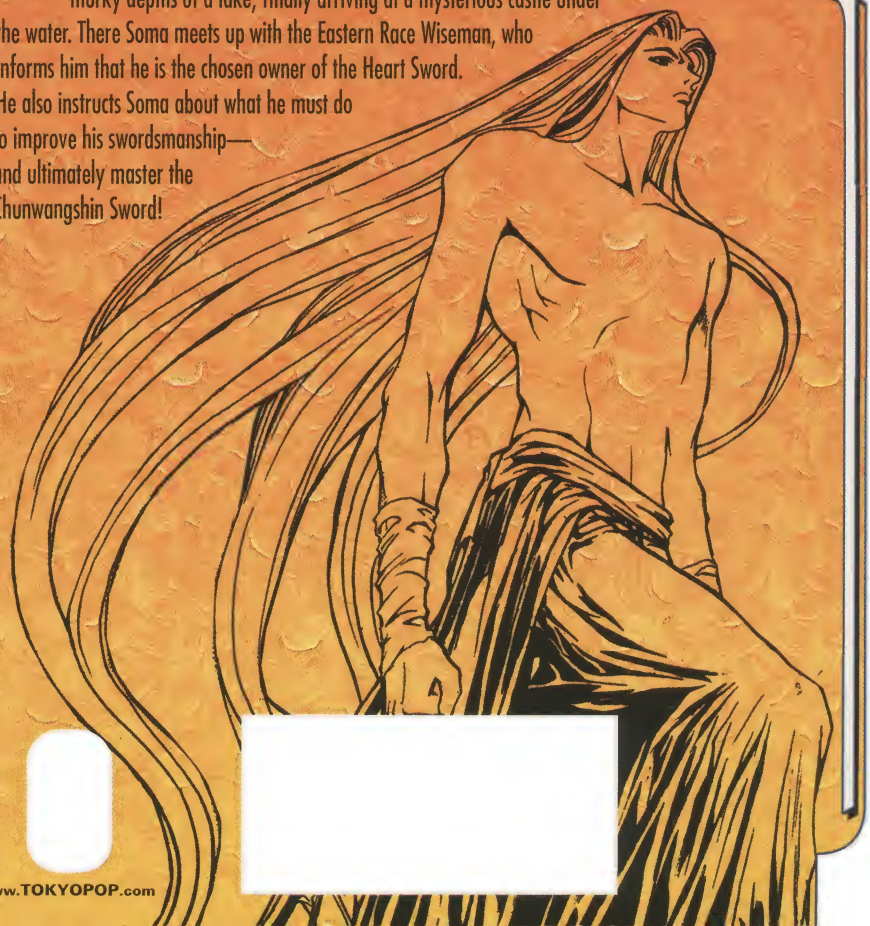


www.TOKYOPOP.com

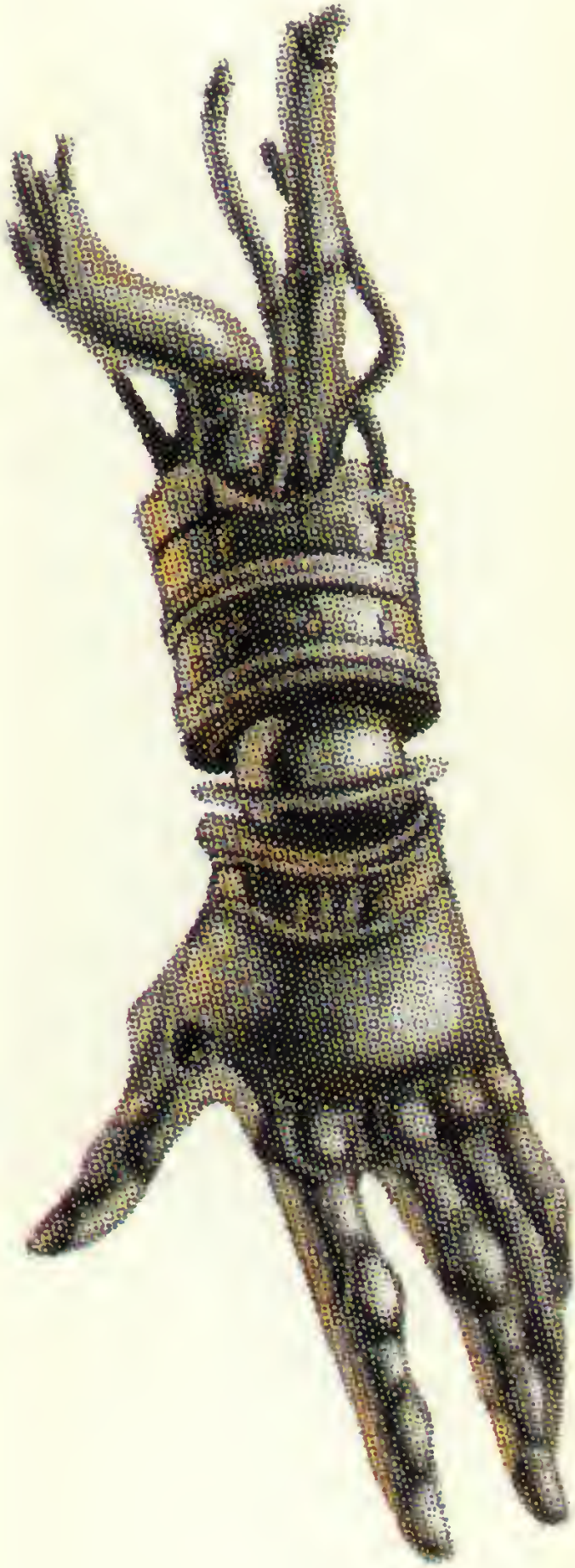
Manga
Action/Fantasy
US $9.99
CAN $13.99
UK £6.99

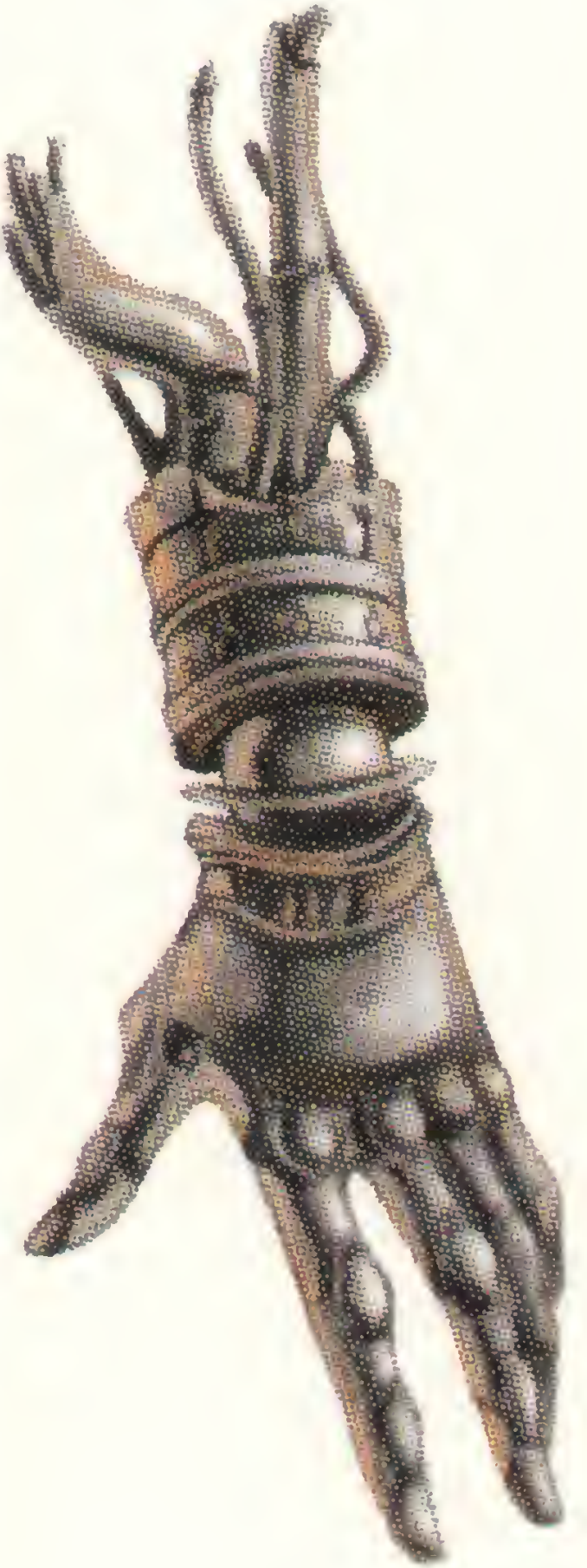
BLADE OF HEAVEN™

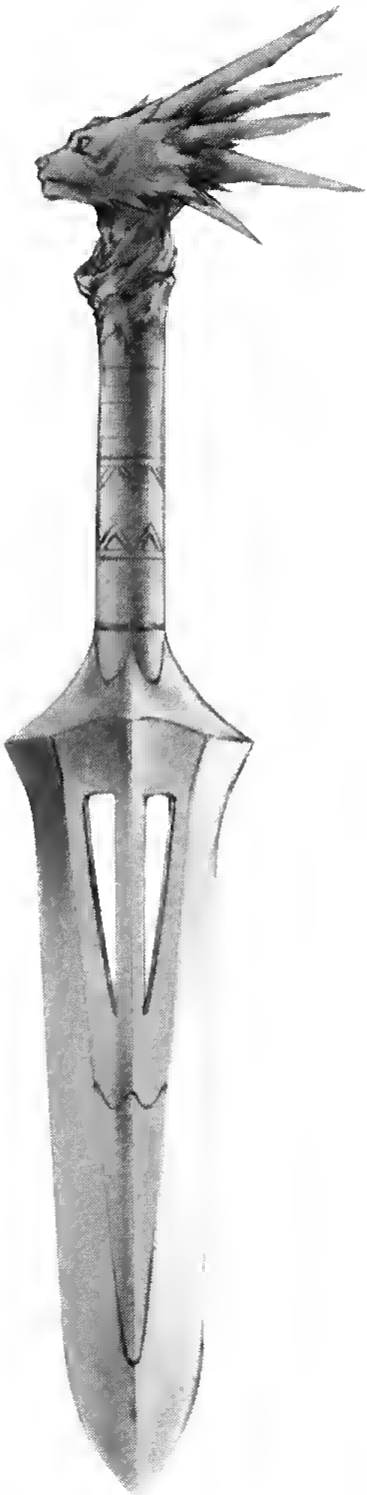
When Soma and friends fall through a whirlpool, they plummet into the murky depths of a lake, finally arriving at a mysterious castle under the water. There Soma meets up with the Eastern Race Wiseman, who informs him that he is the chosen owner of the Heart Sword. He also instructs Soma about what he must do to improve his swordsmanship—and ultimately master the Chunwangshin Sword!



www.TOKYOPOP.com







PREVIOUSLY IN

BLADE OF HEAVEN

AFTER CROSSING THE DESERT WASTELANDS IN SEARCH OF THE DIVINE GRACE, SOMA AND THE CREW ARRIVE AT A MYSTERIOUS LAKE SAID TO CONTAIN THE SPIRIT WITHIN ITS DEPTHS. HOWEVER, SOMA'S GROUP ISN'T THE ONLY FACTION SEEKING THE POWER OF THE DIVINE GRACE. ATTACKED ON ALL SIDES, SOMA FENDS OFF ALL COMERS UNTIL AN EXPLOSION TRIGGERS A MASSIVE WHIRLPOOL, SUCKING THEM ALL UNDER ITS SURFACE. WITHIN THE LAKE LIES A MAGICAL CASTLE, WHERE SOMA FINDS THE HEART SWORD, WHICH CHOOSES HIM AS ITS POSSESSOR—A DEVELOPMENT THAT ENRAGES THE JEALOUS YOUNG WARRIOR, KAY.

I...I CAN'T BELIEVE ALL THE WATER'S BEEN DRAINED FROM THE LAKE...! UNBELIEVABLE...!
AND THE DIVINE GRACE IS GONE, TOO! JUST A MINUTE AGO, IT LIT UP THE ENTIRE SKY, BUT NOW...
LOOK! THERE'S A FREAKIN' CASTLE ON THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKEBED!!
TALK ABOUT YOUR SEAFRONT PROPERTY! WHERE'D THEY ALL GO, ANYWAY?!
HEY, GUYS! CHECK THIS OUT! IT'S SOMA'S CLOAK!
I...I GAVE THIS TO HIM...
WHOA! LOOK! IT'S A MASSIVE HOLE! AND FOR ONCE, IT'S NOT ME!
GOL-LEE! THAT THERE PIT'S GIGANTO-MOUS!!

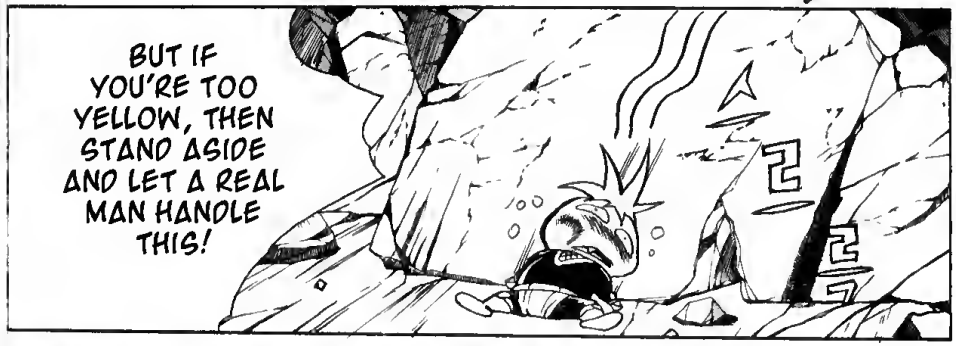
WHAT CH'ALL THINK? YOU RECKON THEY'RE DOWN THERE?
THEY HAVE DISCOVERED THE ENTRANCE TO THE TOMB OF THE LEGENDARY DIVINE GRACE.
THE TOMB OF THE DIVINE GRACE...?

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S THE TOMB OF CERTAIN, FIERY DEATH...
YEAH! FIERY...
...IF SOMA'S DOWN THERE- THEN THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW! I'M GOING IN!

...DEATH...? OH...ER...HEH. M-MAYBE WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT THIS... I MEAN, DO WE KNOW IF SOMA'S EVEN ALIVE...?

NO!!

I'LL BE HAVIN' NONE OF THAT TALK!! OVER MY DEAD BODY IS HE, UH, DEAD!!


BUT IF YOU'RE TOO YELLOW, THEN STAND ASIDE AND LET A REAL MAN HANDLE THIS!

THAT RUNT...HE SAVED ME LIFE! SO I OWE HIM ONE! NOT GOIN' DOWN'S OUT OF THE QUESTION!

NO MATTER WHAT, I MUST... I MUST HELP THE LAD...
CHULDO...? ARE YOU... CRYING...?
AW...NOW YER GOT ME GOIN', YA BIG LUG...!

MADE A PROMISE, I DID...

...THAT IF SOMA WON, I'D SERVE HIM AS MY ELDER! BUT IF HE DIES NOW--I'LL FOREVER BE HIS MANSERVANT!! AND THE MIGHTY CHULDO SERVES NO MAN!! YOU HEAR?! IF THAT SWAB THINKS I'M GONNA SPIT SHINE HIS SHOES FOR ALL ETERNITY, HE'S GOT ANOTHER THING COMING!!
하지

THE NERVE OF HIM, PLACING HIMSELF IN DIRE PERIL, JUST TO SPITE ME! SO FOLLOW ME, MEN! I'LL LEAD US INTO THE MAW OF THAT GAPING HOLE OF...

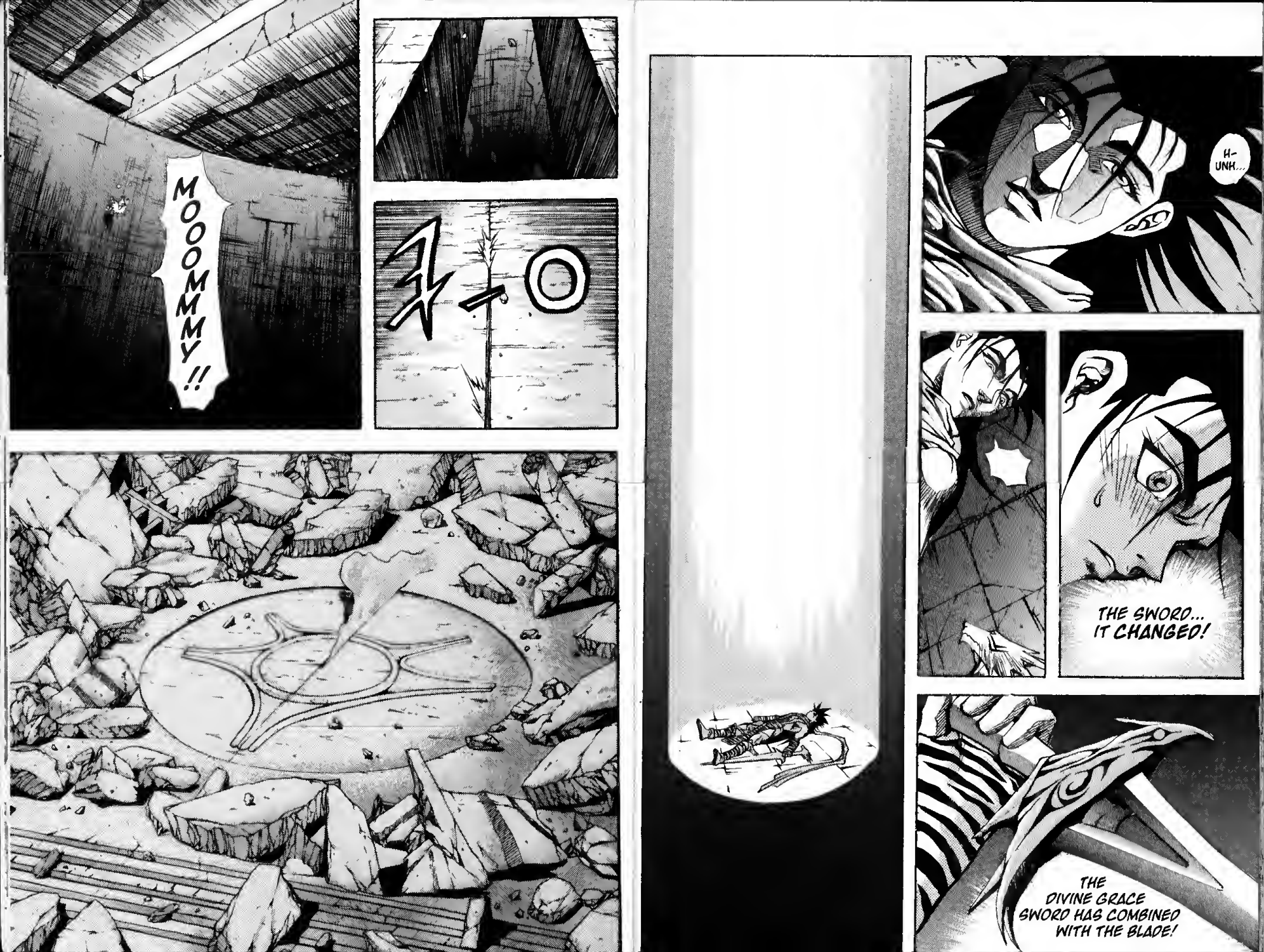
...DEATH?
하지

HUH? W-WHERE DID EVERYONE ...?

하지지지

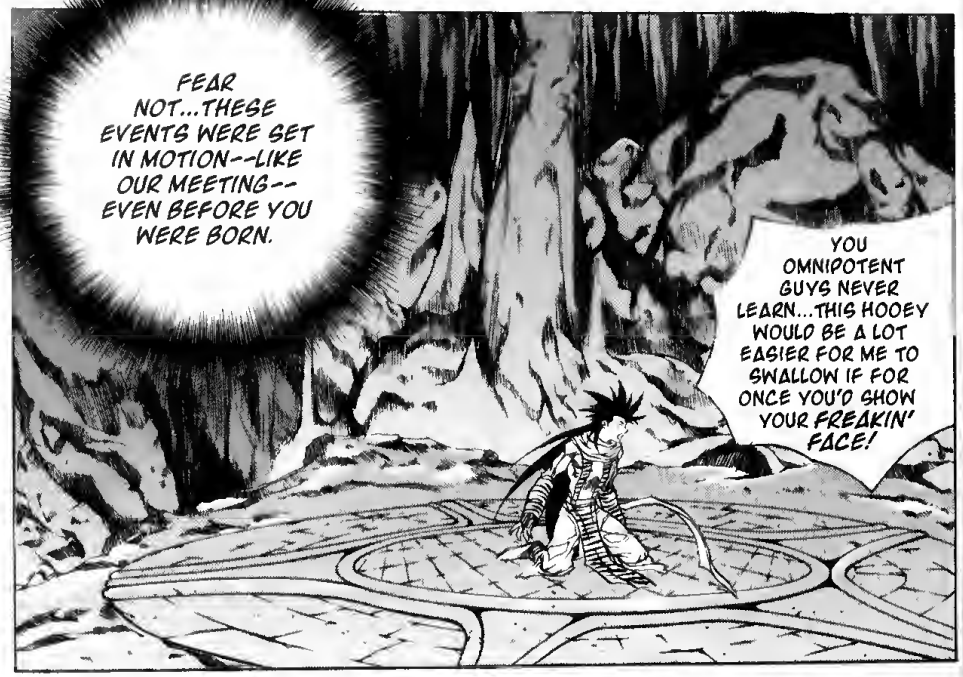
EEK! THE PIT! IT BE CLOSIN'!!

MUST...HUFF...HURRY--!! KNEW I...PUFF...SHOULDN'T HAVE...WHEEZE...DRUNK THAT... HUFF...LAST STEIN OF MEAD...!


MOOOMMY!!
H-UNH...
THE SWORD... IT CHANGED!
THE DIVINE GRACE SWORD HAS COMBINED WITH THE BLADE!

CORRECT, YOUNG ONE. NOW THERE ARE ONLY TWO MORE PIECES TO FIND. AFTER THAT, YOUR JOURNEY WILL BE COMPLETE.

YET ANOTHER VOICE IN MY HEAD?! Y'KNOW, I'M GONNA START CHARGIN' YOU JERKS RENT!

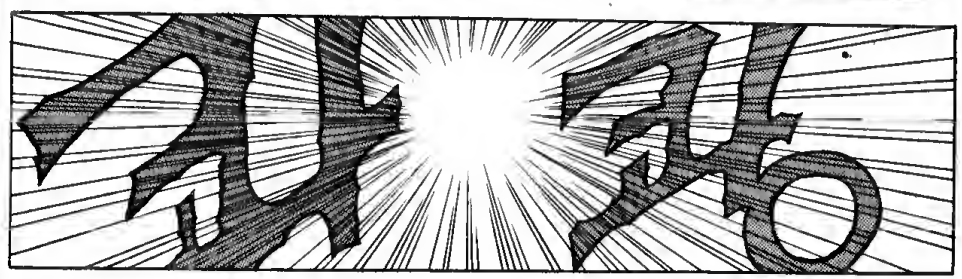

FEAR NOT...THESE EVENTS WERE SET IN MOTION--LIKE OUR MEETING-- EVEN BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.
YOU OMNIPOTENT GUYS NEVER LEARN...THIS HOOEY WOULD BE A LOT EASIER FOR ME TO SWALLOW IF FOR ONCE YOU'D SHOW YOUR FREAKIN' FACE!

AS YOU WISH...THOUGH I KNOW NOT OF THIS "HOOEY" YOU SPEAK OF.

WELCOME, BLADE WIELDER, TO THE SA SHEP SA DEATH GATEWAYS!!

HUH?! THE SA SHEEP...SA SHIP...SA... UH...WHAT THE HELL DID HE CALL IT...?

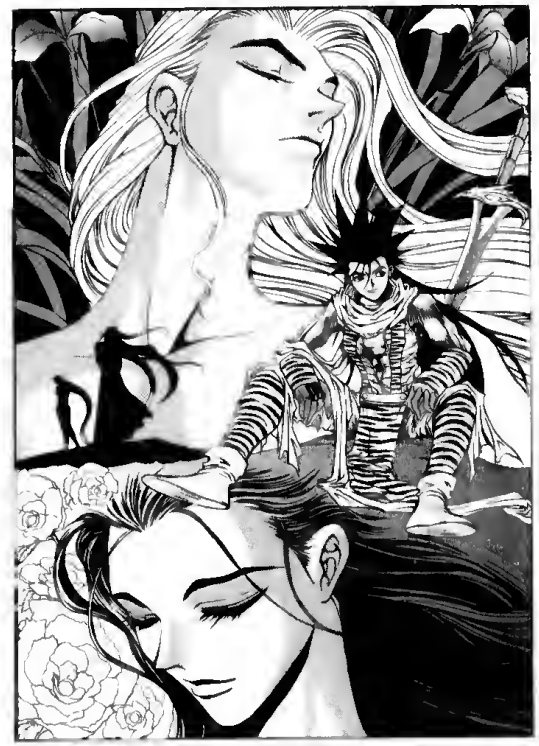
!!
와장창


FALL

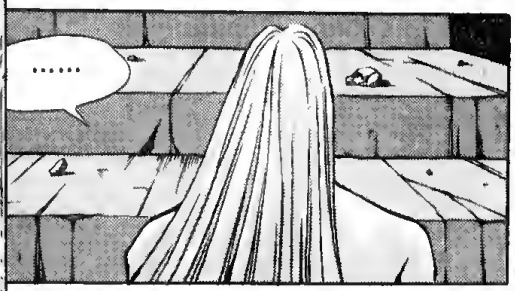
WHEW! GOOD THING I LANDED ON SOMETHIN' SOFT... OH! THAR YOU ARE, YER DOUGHY SWAB...!

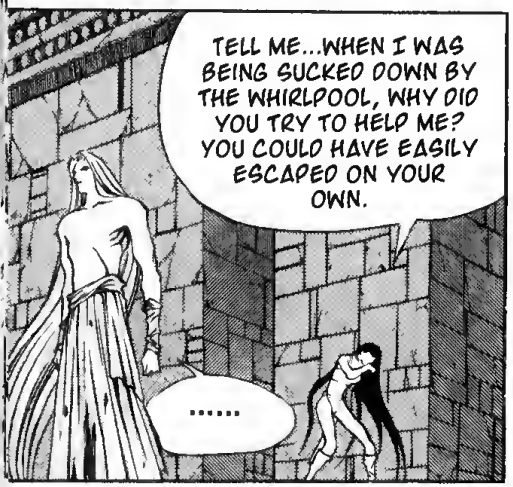
ONCE AN UNKNOWING INTRUDER CROSSES THE THRESHOLD HERE, 10,004 BARRICADES ARE AUTOMATICALLY TRIGGERED--CONVERTING THIS PLACE INTO AN INESCAPABLE LABYRINTH OF DEATH!!
YOU, BOY, STAND AT THE EYE OF THAT SWIRLING FUNNEL OF DOOM!

BLADE OF HEAVEN



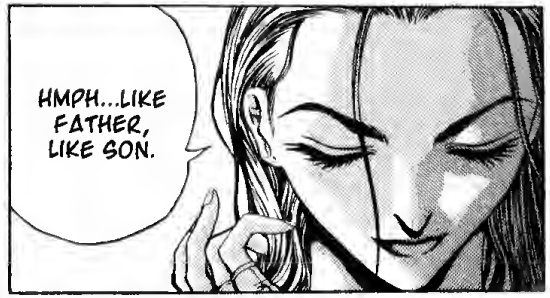
WHERE ARE WE, ANYWAY?


.....

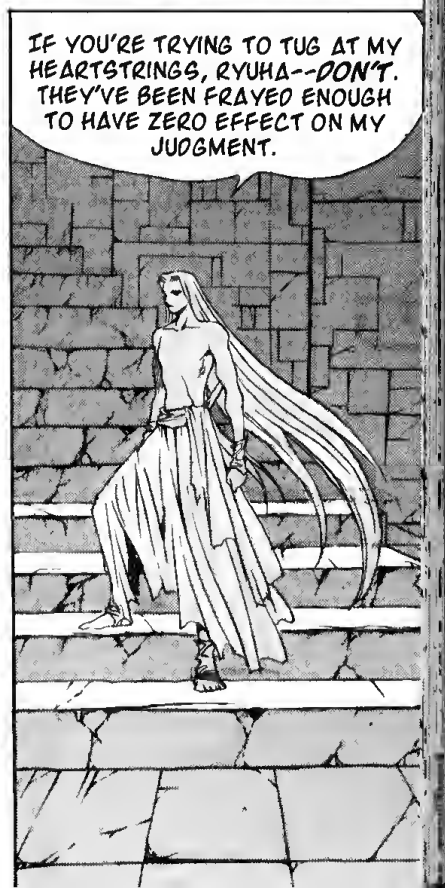

TELL ME...WHEN I WAS BEING SUCKED DOWN BY THE WHIRLPOOL, WHY DID YOU TRY TO HELP ME? YOU COULD HAVE EASILY ESCAPED ON YOUR OWN.
.....

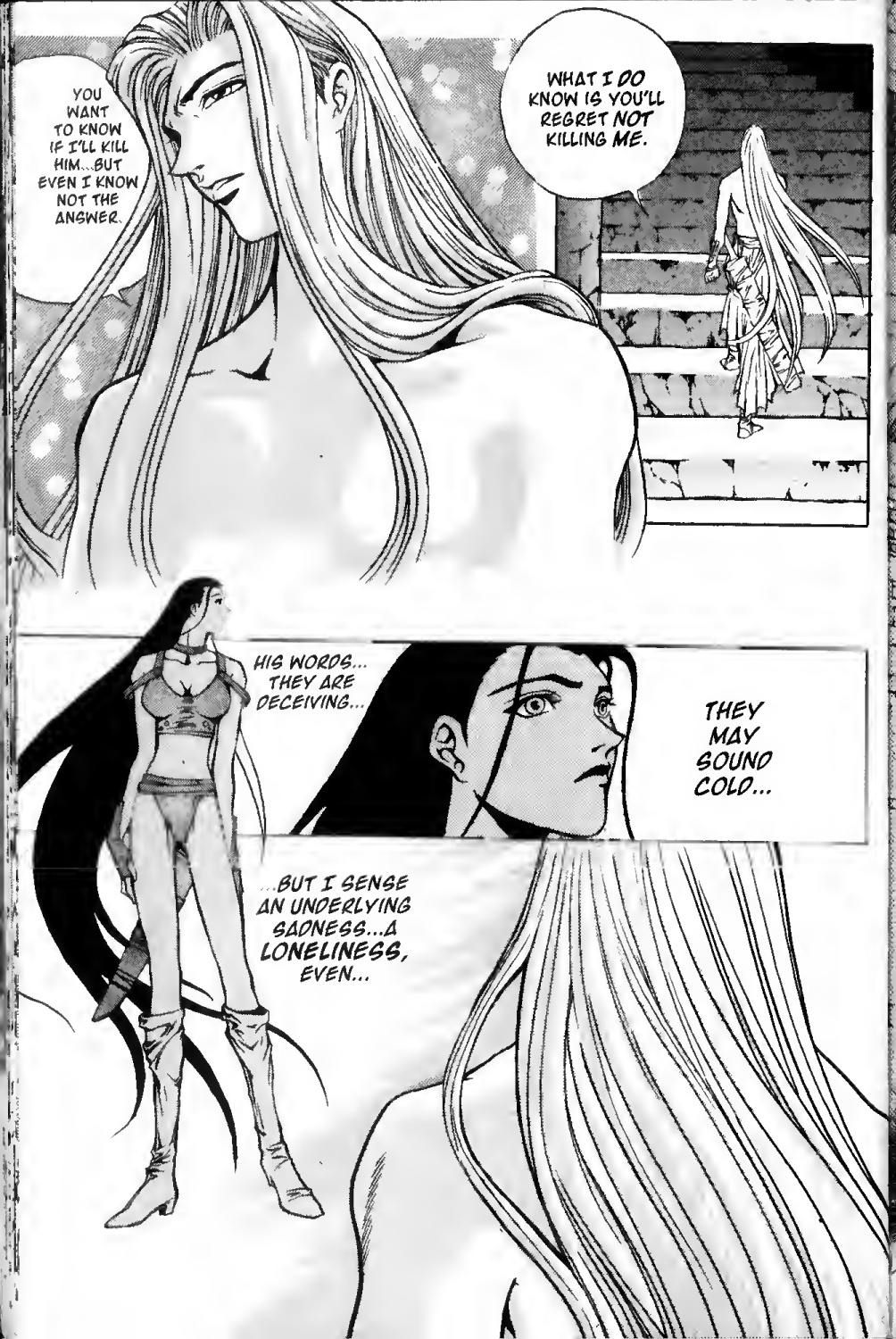
WHAT'S YOUR REAL REASON FOR GOING TO THE DEMON REALM?

TO DESTROY THEM.


HMPH...LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON.

I KNOW HE ABANDONED YOU AND YOUR MOTHER... BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK HATE WILL STEADY YOUR SWORD WHEN IT'S TIME TO STRIKE HIM DOWN?


IF YOU'RE TRYING TO TUG AT MY HEARTSTRINGS, RYUHA--DON'T. THEY'VE BEEN FRAYED ENOUGH TO HAVE ZERO EFFECT ON MY JUDGMENT.


YOU WANT TO KNOW IF I'LL KILL HIM...BUT EVEN I KNOW NOT THE ANSWER.
WHAT I DO KNOW IS YOU'LL REGRET NOT KILLING ME.
HIS WORDS... THEY ARE DECEIVING...
THEY MAY SOUND COLD...
...BUT I SENSE AN UNDERLYING SADNESS...A LONELINESS, EVEN...

THAT WASN'T ENTIRELY THE TRUTH. I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M TRYING TO GET TO THE DEMON REALM. WHETHER IT'S THE WISH OF A VENGEFUL HEART...
...OR THE DESIRE TO SEE THE FATHER I'VE NEVER MET. EITHER WAY, I MUST MEET HIM!!

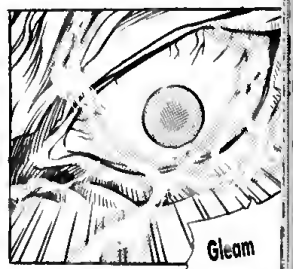
DUDE...WHO GAVE YOU THE KEY TO THE LOONEY BIN--AND WHY?!

SO I SHOULD FOLLOW THE WISDOM OF A LOON TRUSSED UP IN SOME KINDA ROPE KINKINESS I WANT NO PART OF...
...JUST 'CUZ YOU TOLD ME TO--IN MY FRICKIN' MIND, NO LESS! RIIIGHT. AND MY DAY JOB'S LORD OF MAMMARY MANSION!

THOUGH...I DO LIKE YOUR SPUNK. TO BECOME A LEADER OF MEN, ONE MUST POSSESS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF... ARROGANCE.

YOUR FEARLESSNESS IS ECLIPSED ONLY BY YOUR STUPIDITY.

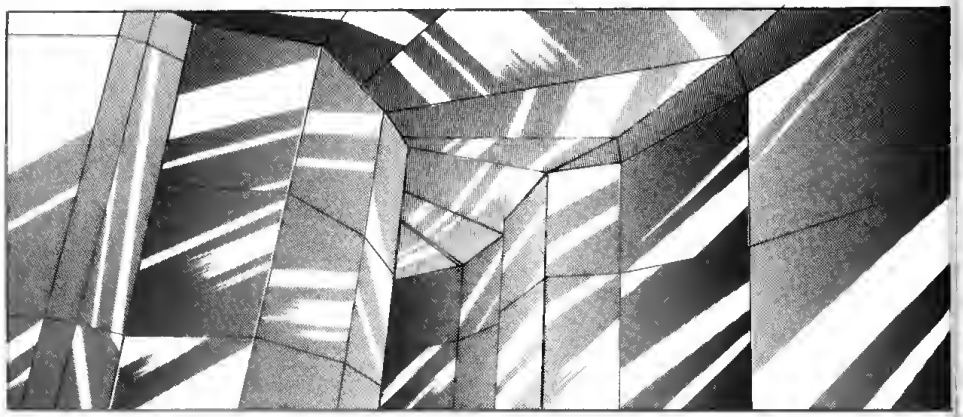
BLAHDY, BLAH, BLAH. DO YOU EVER RUN OUT OF WORDS TO SPEW OR WHAT?! JEEZ! I'D CONSIDER GIVING YOU A HAND AND CUTTIN' YA DOWN, BUT I FEAR THE ENSUING THANKS MIGHT TAKE YEARS OFF MY LIFE!


Gleam

WHAT'S THIS?! YOU TRYING TO EYEBALL ME TO DEATH?! PAL, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW YOU'RE LOOKING AT A FOUR-TIME STAREATHON CHAMPION! SO GIMME YOUR BEST SHOT, GRAMPS!!

HNH! L-LAUGHTER...SO LOUD...IT'S...F-FILLING... MY...H-HEAD...!
I-IT... WASN'T... THAT... F-FUNNY !!
GAH !!
THE ONLY BEING POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BIND ME HERE IS MYSELF!
DESTROYING YOU WOULD TAKE AS MUCH EFFORT FOR ME AS CRUSHING AN ANT UNDERFOOT!!
HA HA!! DO YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT I, THE EASTERN RACES' WISEMAN, CAN BE BOUND AGAINST MY WILL?! WHA HA HA HA!!

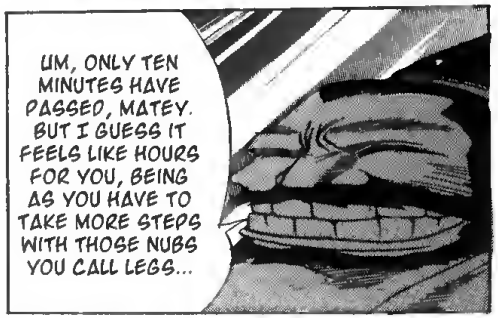
ALL RIGHT!! I GET IT!! YOU P-POWERFUL--ME NOT!! JUST STOP BEFORE MY H-HEAD EXPLODES!!
BEEN THERE, DONE THAT, GRAMPS.
STOP, YOU SAY?! NOT UNTIL YOU FULLY ACCEPT YOUR FATE...YOUR DESTINY! YOU MUST BECOME THE GREATEST WARRIOR THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN!!
I'VE WHIPPED MORE ASS THAN A FARMER RIDING A DONKEY! WHAT YOU REALLY SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT IS THAT YOU JUST SHOT TO NUMBER ONE ON MY "WHO TO PUMMEL WITHIN AN INCH OF THEIR LIVES" LIST!



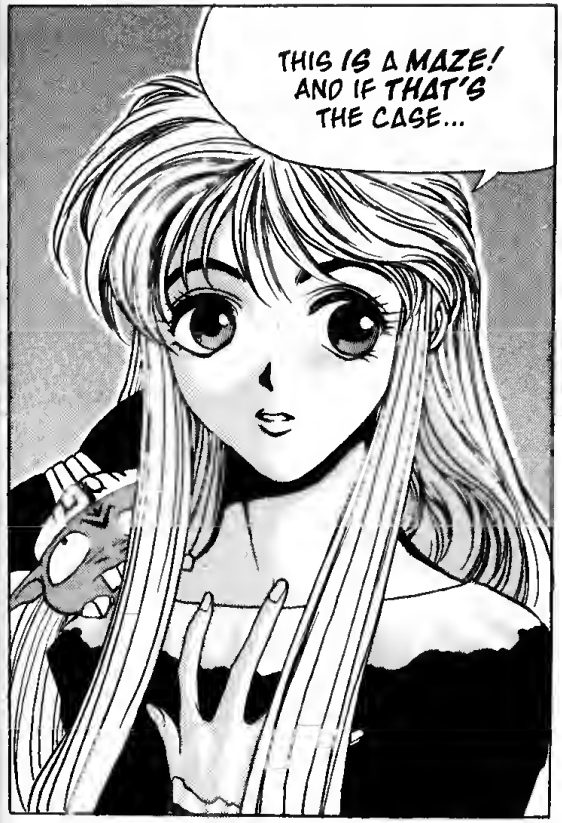
ARE WE THERE YET...?
저벅 저벅

WE'VE BEEN WALKING IN THIS REJECT FUNHOUSE FOR HOURS!

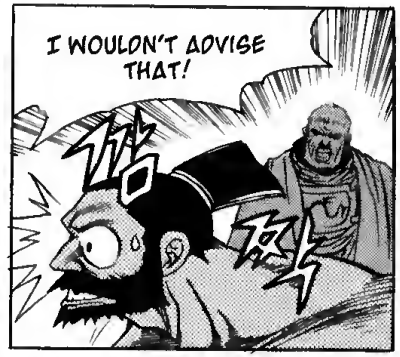
AT LEAST I'M BIG WHERE IT COUNTS! UNLIKE SOME SMELLY, PIRATE WANNABES I KNOW!
WHA... I KNEW YOU WERE PEEKING WHEN WE TOOK THAT PEE BREAK!!

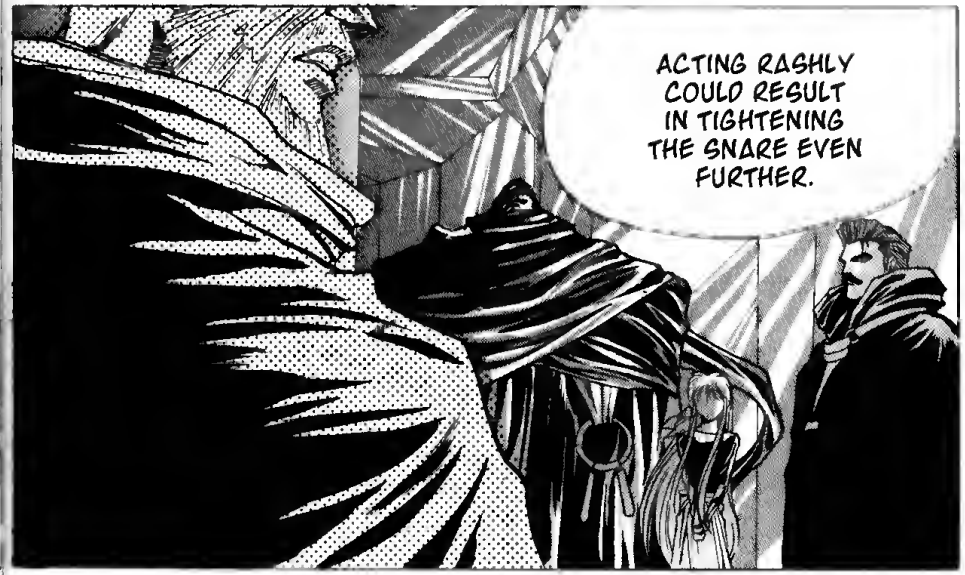

UM, ONLY TEN MINUTES HAVE PASSED, MATEY. BUT I GUESS IT FEELS LIKE HOURS FOR YOU, BEING AS YOU HAVE TO TAKE MORE STEPS WITH THOSE NUBS YOU CALL LEGS...

HE'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW. ER, ABOUT THIS PLACE...NOT THE, UM... AHEM.
헉 헉


THIS IS A MAZE! AND IF THAT'S THE CASE...

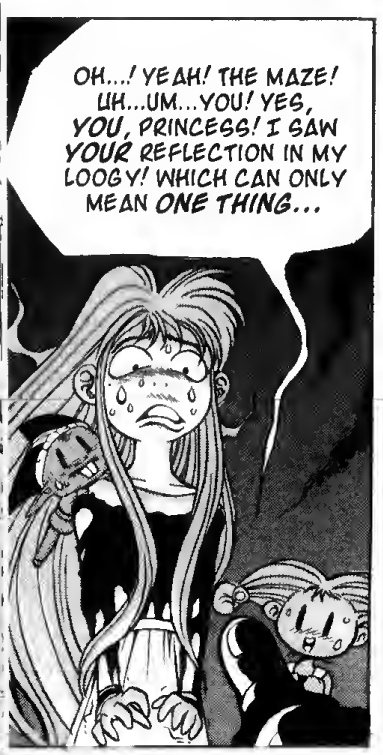
...ALL WE NEED TO DO TO GET OUT IS BREAK THESE MIRRORS! SMART THINKING, LASS!


I WOULDN'T ADVISE THAT!

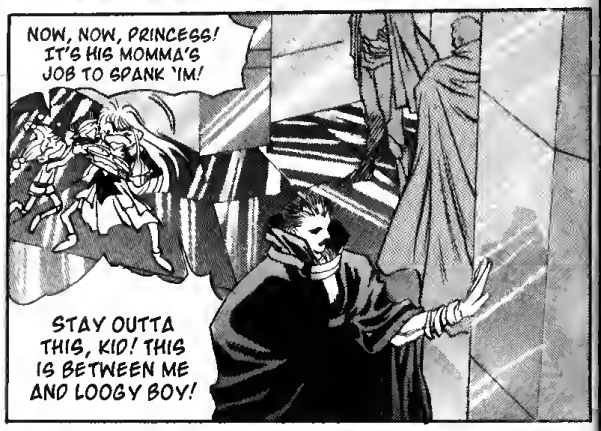

ACTING RASHLY COULD RESULT IN TIGHTENING THE SNARE EVEN FURTHER.

YEAH! SO AT EASE, YA DUMB APE. YOU'RE LIKE A NAG THAT KEEPS CHARGING OFF THE SAME CLIFF! DOWN ONE ARM, BUT STILL THE LUNKHEAD WANTS TO RUSH IN WITHOUT THINKING!!
BAD ENOUGH WE'RE STUCK IN A MAZE OF MIRRORS...BUT NOW WE HAVE TO LOOK AT YOUR UGLY MUG REFLECTED ALL AROUND US!
OOH! THEN YOU MUST HAVE A BETTER PLAN, RIGHT?!
W-WHO...? ME...? O-OF COURSE! SHEESH...MUST I KEEP REMINDING YOU GUYS HOW SO TOTALLY AWESOME I AM?
PLEASE FORGIVE US, OH GREAT ONE! WE KNOW NOT WHAT WE DO!
WE ARE YOUR HUMBLE SERVANTS!
I AIN'T NO SERVANT! I'M HIS MOMMA!
AHEM...THE SOLUTION IS QUITE SIMPLE...
I MEAN, THIS ISN'T BRAIN SURGERY, PEOPLE. WHICH, I MIGHT ADD, I'M EQUALLY ADEPT AT...BUT THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT. NOW...ON CERTAIN OCCASIONS...I.E., THIS ONE... A NONSENSICAL APPROACH CAN BE THE VERY KEY TO SOLVING A MYSTERY!
PFFT! HIS LIES BE AS LARGE AS HIS MOUTH!

...?
...?
YOU CAN DO IT, FAT NINJA...!
YOU CAN DO IT, SON...!
YES...IT'S COMING... THE ANSWER IS...
...UH...WHAT WAS THE QUESTION AGAIN...?


OH...! YEAH! THE MAZE! UH...UM...YOU! YES, YOU, PRINCESS! I SAW YOUR REFLECTION IN MY LOOGY! WHICH CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING...

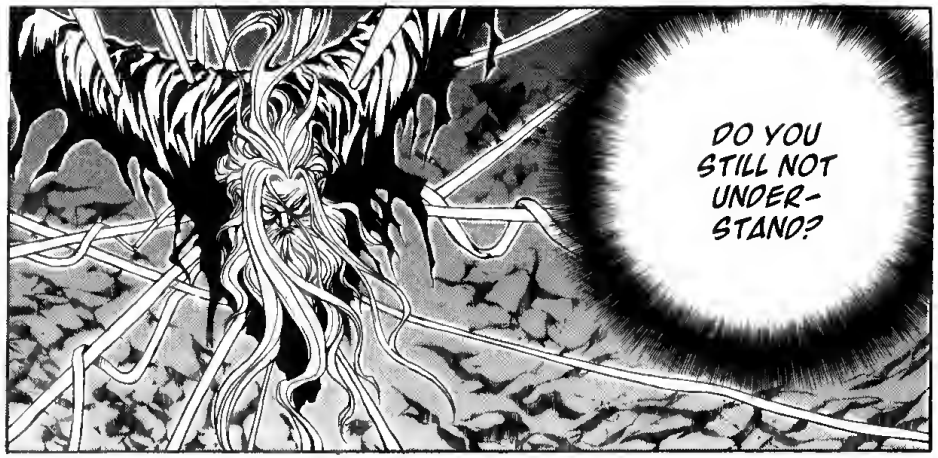
...THAT I HAVE WAY TOO MUCH PHLEGM! I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD THAT GLASS OF MILK BEFORE LEAVING THE SHIP! I MEAN, JUST LOOK AT THIS CRAP! PITOOIE!


NOW, NOW, PRINCESS! IT'S HIS MOMMA'S JOB TO SPANK 'IM!
STAY OUTTA THIS, KID! THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND LOOGY BOY!

THIS MAZE... IT FEELS VERY... FAMILIAR... BESIDES SOME MINOR DIFFERENCES, IT IS ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE THE EASTERN RACES' SA MANG SA GATEWAYS OF DEATH ...!

CAN IT BE...? WAS THIS PLACE CONSTRUCTED BY MY PEOPLE?!

KRAACK!!


DO YOU STILL NOT UNDER-STAND?

YOU WERE DESTINED TO MEET ME!!

YOUR FATE IS IN MY HANDS !!

THE BLADE...!!

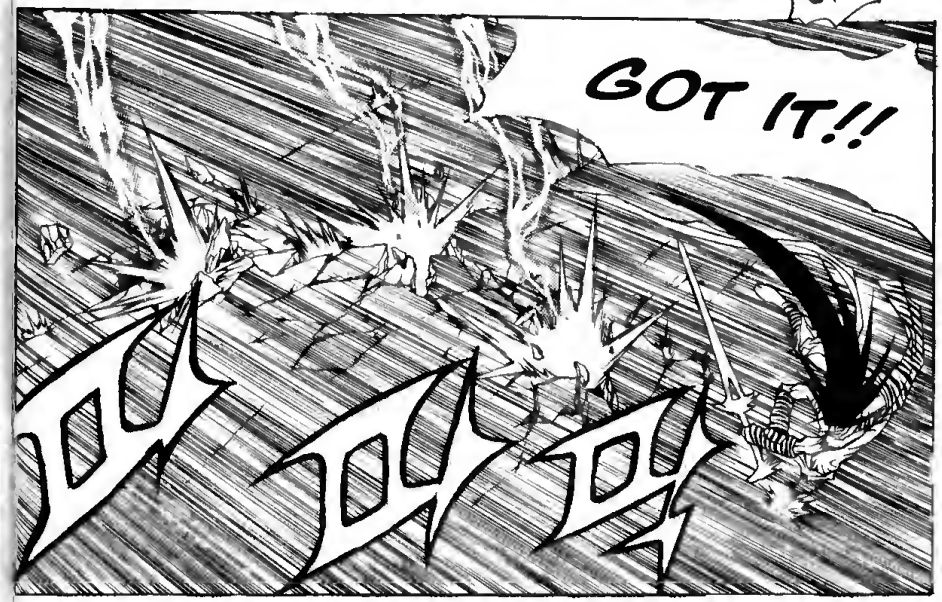
HEY...DON'T BE FEELIN' UP MY FATE, CREEP!

'SIDES--I DON'T BELIEVE IN FATE! I CREATE MY OWN FUTURE!!

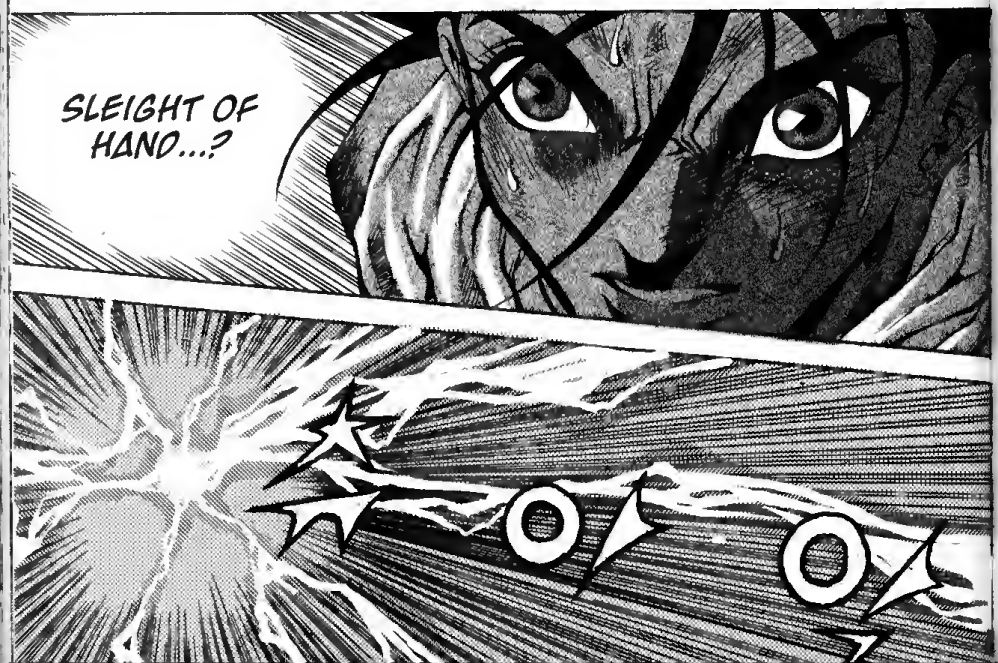
FOOLISH BOY...!

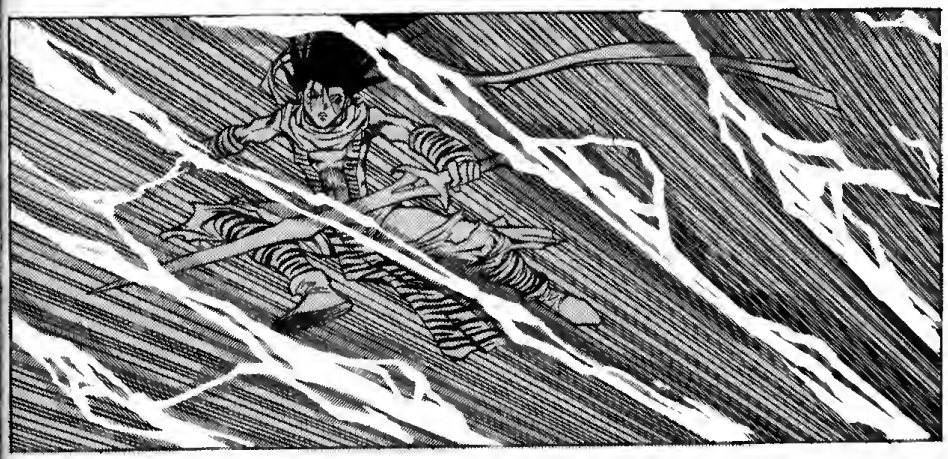
ALMOST ...

CHAK!


GOT IT!!

I DON'T NEED-- NOR WANT-- ANYONE'S HELP! WHAT IS IT WITH YOU OLD GEEZERS, ANYWAY?!
YOU'RE JUST LIKE GENERAL WINTER--ALWAYS TRYIN' TO BOSS ME AROUND, ALWAYS THINKIN' YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEST! NEWS FLASH! OLD FARTS CAN BE JUST AS SMELLY AS NEW ONES!!
YOUR RESISTANCE IS UNDERSTANDABLE. BUT WHAT YOU CONSIDER FREE WILL IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ILLUSION THAT OBSCURES THE TRUTH! SLEIGHT OF HAND TRICKS CANNOT PREVENT THIS!

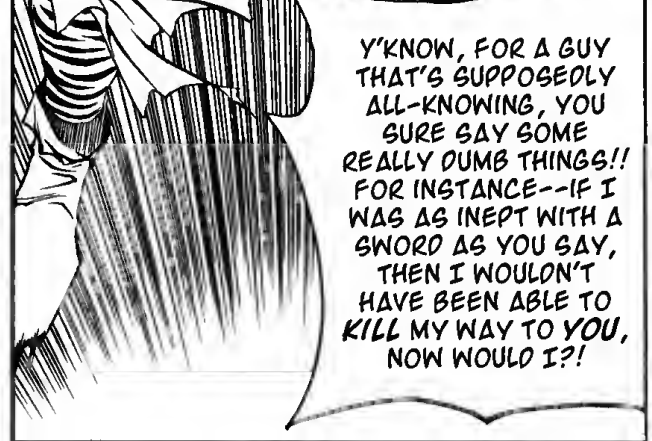

SLEIGHT OF HAND...?



YOU STILL HAVEN'T FULLY COMPREHENDED HOW ENERGY REALLY FLOWS. IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU JUST "PICK UP."

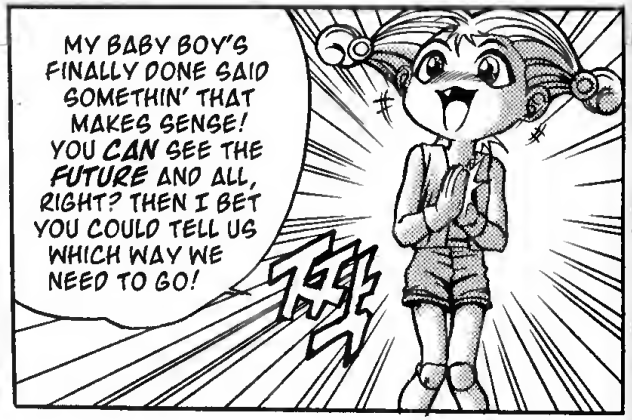
A SWORD'S ENERGY SHOULD BE AS GRACEFUL AS A CLOUD GENTLY FLOATING ACROSS A SUMMER SKY... AND, WHEN NEED BE, AS STRONG AND POWERFUL AS A THUNDERHEAD.

IF ALL YOU CAN MUSTER IS STRENGTH, THEN YOUR SKILLS ARE USELESS.


Y'KNOW, FOR A GUY THAT'S SUPPOSEDLY ALL-KNOWING, YOU SURE SAY SOME REALLY DUMB THINGS!! FOR INSTANCE--IF I WAS AS INEPT WITH A SWORD AS YOU SAY, THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KILL MY WAY TO YOU, NOW WOULD I?!

MY BODY...! IT'S FROZEN MID-SWING!!
EVEN IF YOU KNOW THOUSANDS OF MARTIAL ARTS TECHNIQUES... WITHOUT PROPER EXECUTION, THEY'RE USELESS.
IF THE TWO PIECES OF THE BLADE ARE NOT UNITED AS ONE, THEY, TOO, ARE USELESS.
YOUR EVOLUTION AS A WARRIOR IS AT STAKE!
ARE YOU NOTICING A TREND, HERE?
THROUGH MY FIRE YOU WILL RISE FROM THE ASHES--AS A WARRIOR BORN ANEW!!

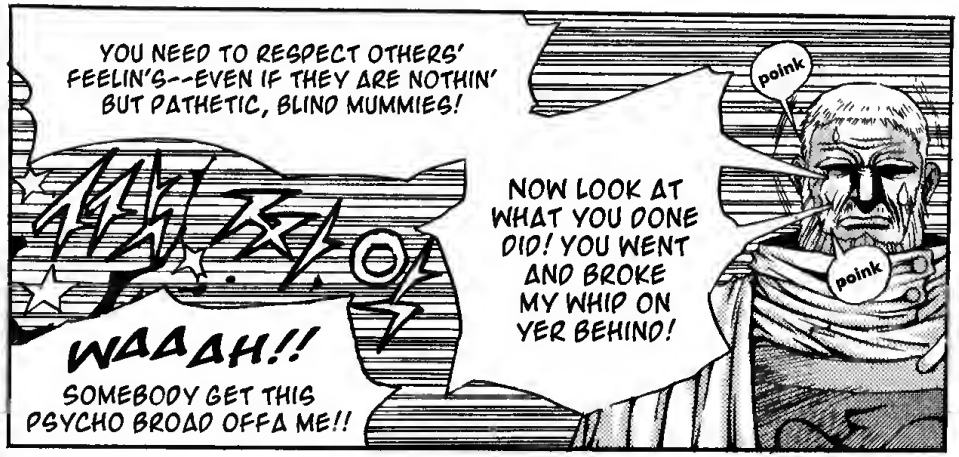
LET'S RECAP, SHALL WE? SOMA, RYUHA AND MAKUMRANG ARE LOST, POSSIBLY DEAD...WE, THE RESCUERS, ARE TRAPPED IN THIS MAZE...AND THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN GET US OUT IS PUMMELED WITHIN AN INCH OF HIS LIFE BY HIS SO-CALLED "FRIENDS." OLD MAN? YOU SEE ANY MORE BETRAYALS IN MY FUTURE? HMM?


MY BABY BOY'S FINALLY DONE SAID SOMETHIN' THAT MAKES SENSE! YOU CAN SEE THE FUTURE AND ALL, RIGHT? THEN I BET YOU COULD TELL US WHICH WAY WE NEED TO GO!

HMPH! THAT'S THE DUMBEST IDEA I'VE EVER HEARD! THAT BLIND COOT COULDN'T FIND AN APPLE IN A FRUIT BASKET!

BOY...WHUT I TELL YOU 'BOUT SASSIN' ME?!
EEK! NOT THE DREADED RED WHIP!! I'LL BE GOOD!! PINKY PROMISE!!
OH, BROTHER

BABY! RESPECT YER ELDERS! MOMMA LEARNED YEH BETTER THEN THAT!
BUT MOOOM...! HE IS BLIND! YOU'RE ALWAYS COMIN' DOWN ON ME! I'M GONNA RUN AWAY!
EGAD! THE LAD'S PLUM LOST HIS MIND!


YOU NEED TO RESPECT OTHERS' FEELIN'S--EVEN IF THEY ARE NOTHIN' BUT PATHETIC, BLIND MUMMIES!
WAAAH!!
SOMEBODY GET THIS PSYCHO BROAD OFFA ME!!
NOW LOOK AT WHAT YOU DONE DID! YOU WENT AND BROKE MY WHIP ON YER BEHIND!
poink
poink

NOW...WHERE WAS I...SIR? YOU THINK YOU COULD DO THIS LITTLE OL' GAL A FAVOR AND GIT US OUT OF THIS HERE TRAP? HMM? PRETTY PLEASE...?

THIS PLACE...ITS HISTORY IS MOSTLY AN ENIGMA. IT CLOUDS MY THIRD EYE...SO I CAN'T SEE THE FUTURE.

HA...! T-TOLD YA! HE'S... OW...AS USEFUL... OUCH...AS CH-CHOPSTICKS...OWIE... IN A SWORD FIGHT!

Glare
AHEM... HOWEVER...THE LITTLE HISTORY WE DO KNOW...
MOST DISTURBING

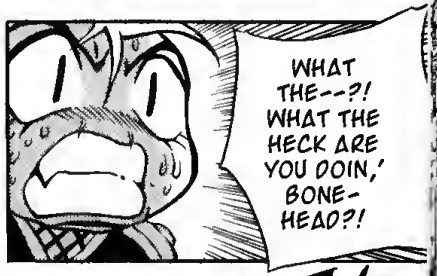
...TELLS US THIS PLACE WAS ERECTED TO PROTECT AND GUARD THE HEART SWORD. IT IS SAID THAT 10,004 BARRICADES OF DEATH SURROUND IT.
THE PURPOSE OF THE BARRICADES IS TO TEST THE ONE CHOSEN BY THE HEART SWORD. ONLY BY SUCCESSFULLY PASSING THE CHALLENGES CAN THE CHOSEN ONE BE SUCCESSFULLY REBORN INTO A TRUE DIVINE GRACE.

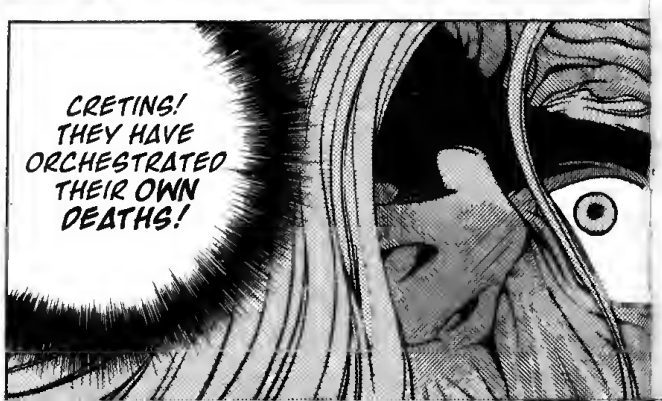
IN SHORT...THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN ESCAPE THIS LABYRINTH IS THE DIVINE GRACE!

THE YOUNG MASTER... I SENSE HIS ENERGY BEYOND THIS DOOR...

YES...IT IS HIM! THIS SITUATION IS UNACCEPTABLE! TO DELAY ANY FURTHER ONLY INCREASES HIS ENDANGERMENT!

I MUST BREAK THROUGH!!


WHAT THE--?! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOIN,' BONE-HEAD?!



BLADE OF HEAVEN

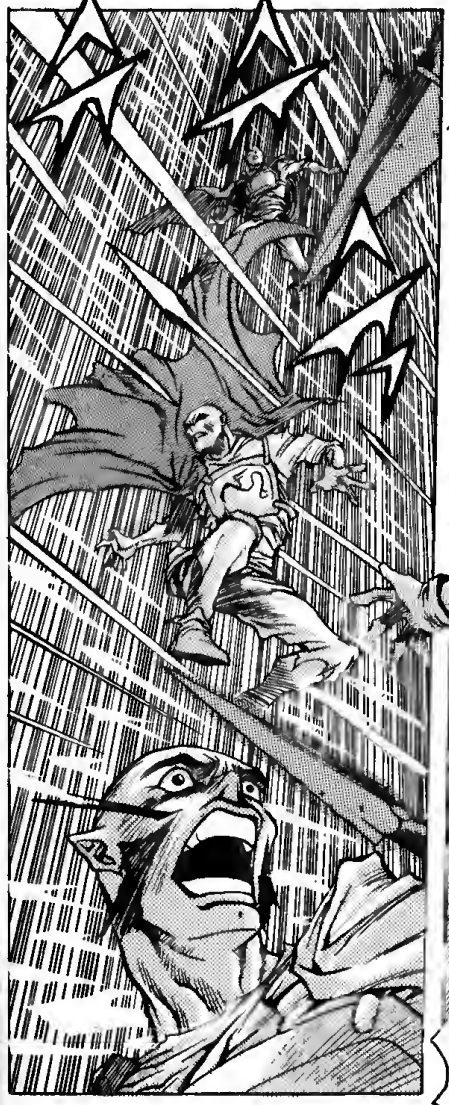
MOO YOUNG TAN GEE!!
WHAT THE--?! WHAT'S THAT THING?!
IT'S A METAL PILLAR!! IT'S GONNA SQUISH US!!
HOLD ON!! I WILL SAVE YOU!!
BIRDMAN FLIGHT!!
WATCH OUT!!

AAAAK!!
GOOD LORD!!
DONG DONG! I'M COMING, LASS!!
HURK!!
!!

OF
OF

IF

NO!! MASTER SHIMME!!

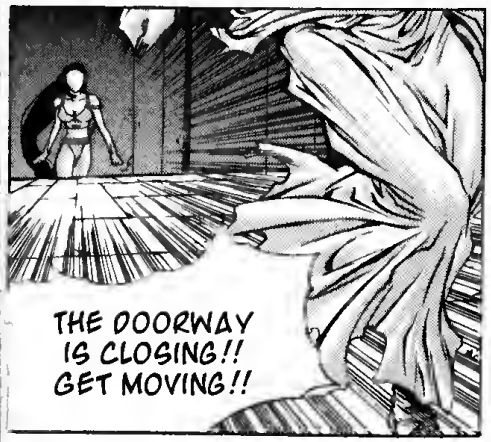


ARGH!!

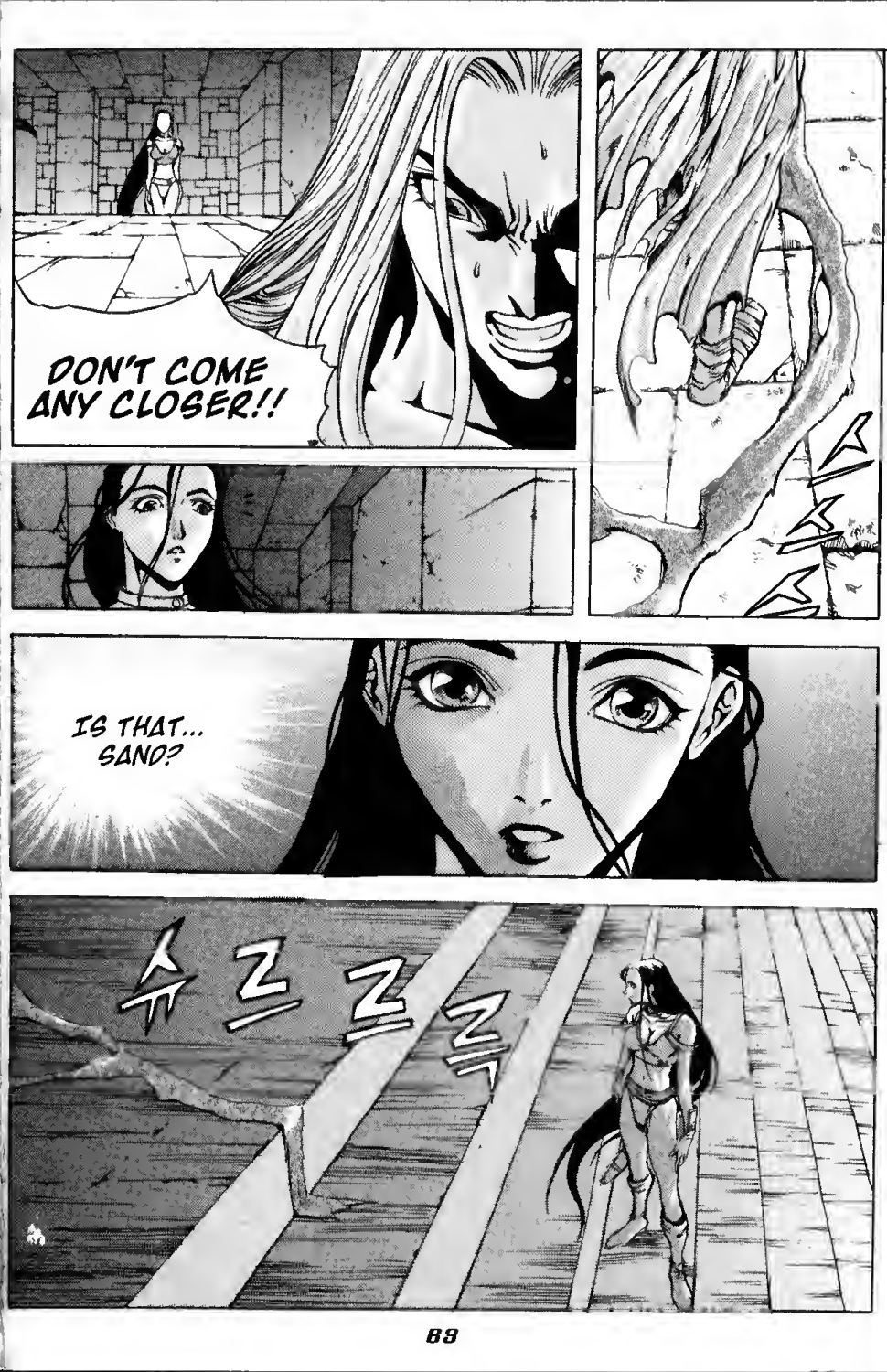
BEAST MEN!! MOVE ASIDE!!

NWAY GWANG TECH-NIQUE !!

THAT SOUND... WHAT IS...?

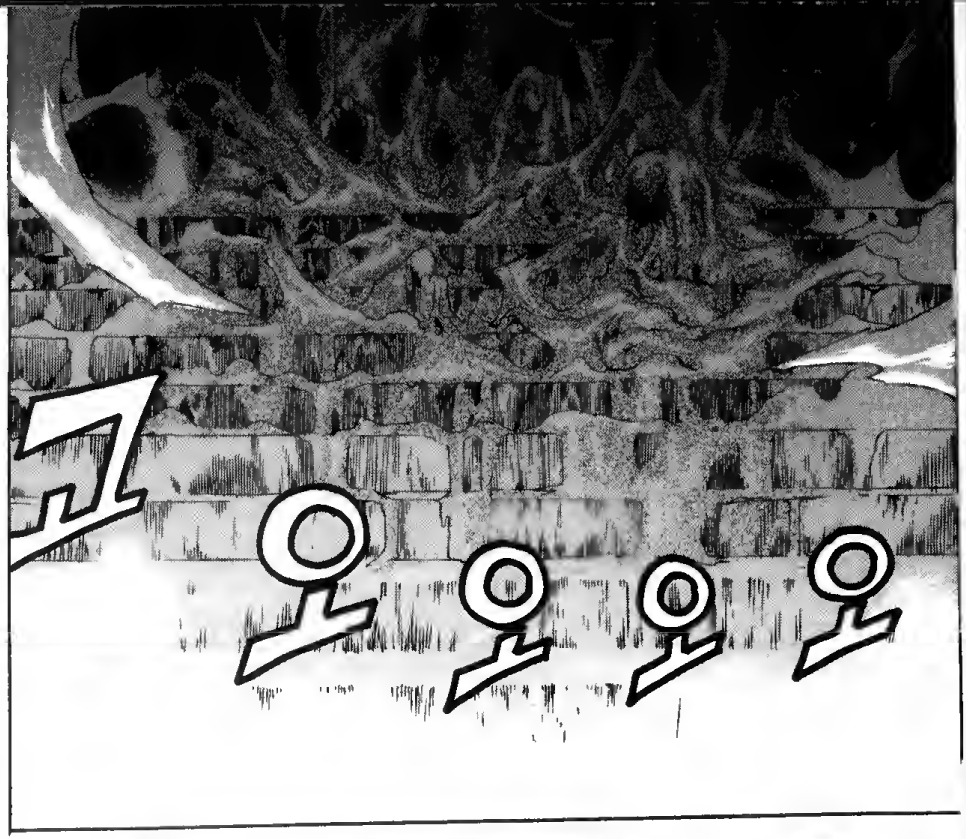

THE DOORWAY IS CLOSING!! GET MOVING!!

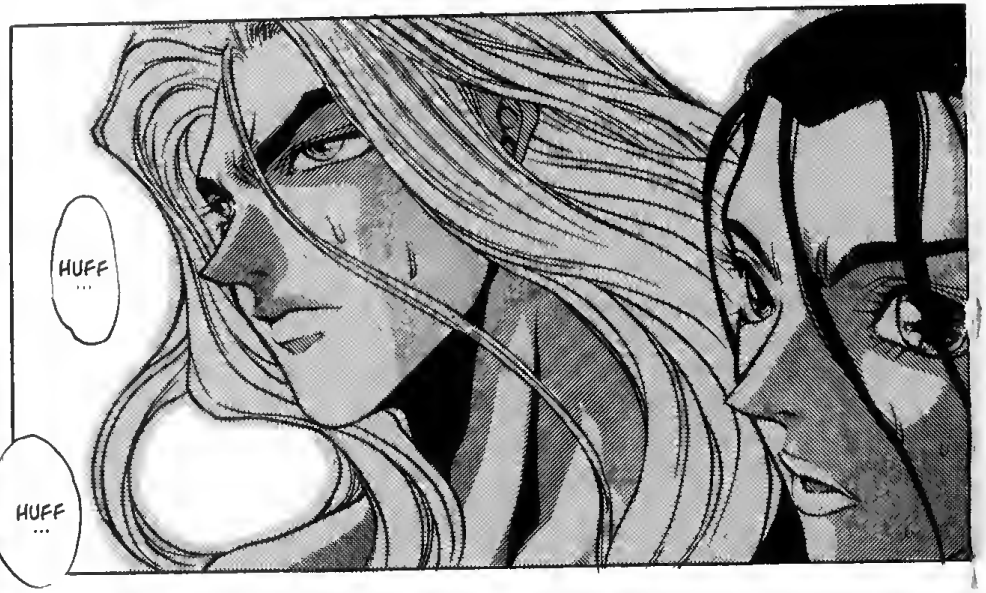
HURRY, DAMN YOU!!
ching!
IS THAT... SAND?
I-I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS...


DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!!

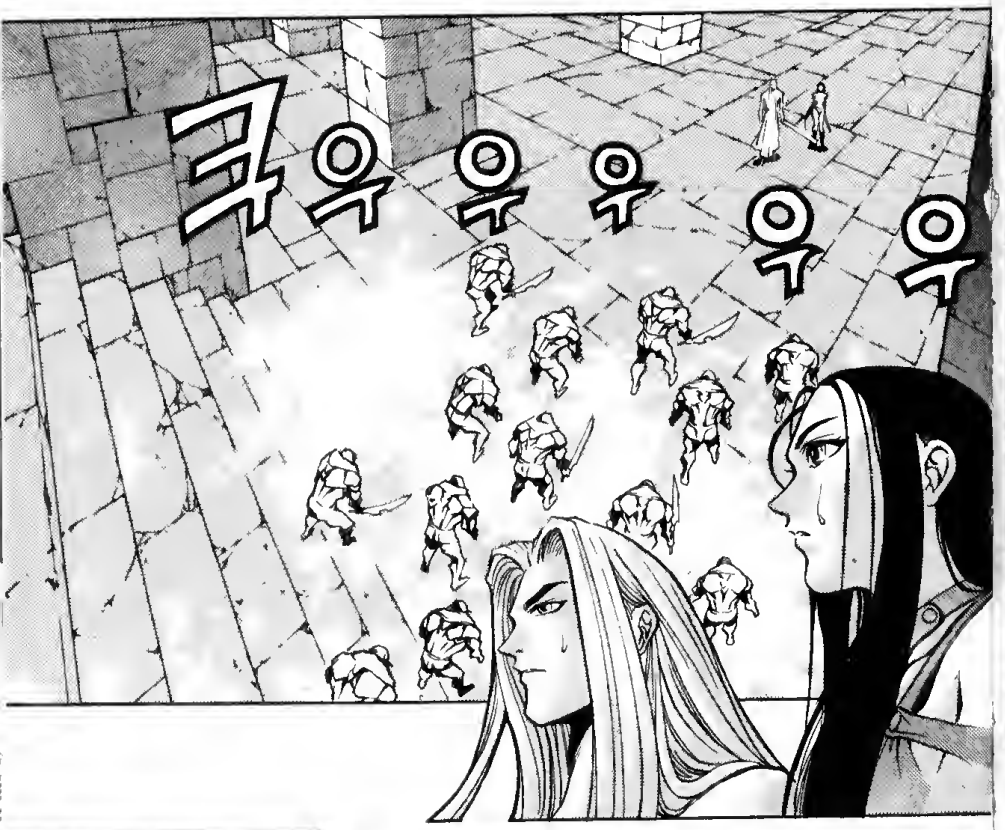
Fssssh...
IT'S TAKING FORM!
THE SAND...!
I TRIED TO STRIKE IT... BUT IT SHATTERED MY SWORD!

HANG ON, RYUHA!! I'M COMING!!
MURDEROUS DEATH ATTACK!!
Shff!
WHAT IS THAT THING?!
.....!!

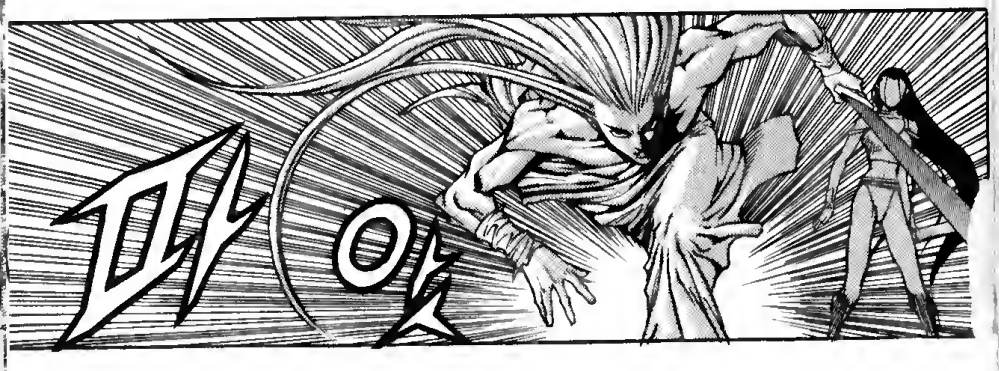


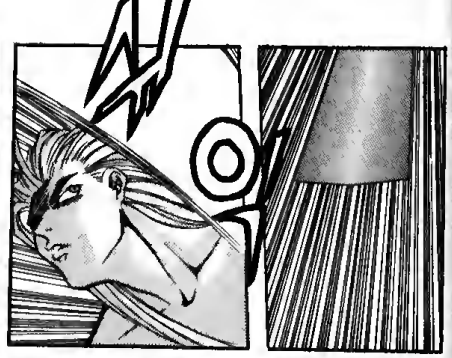


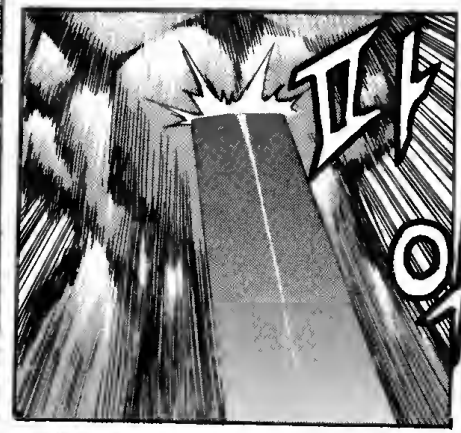
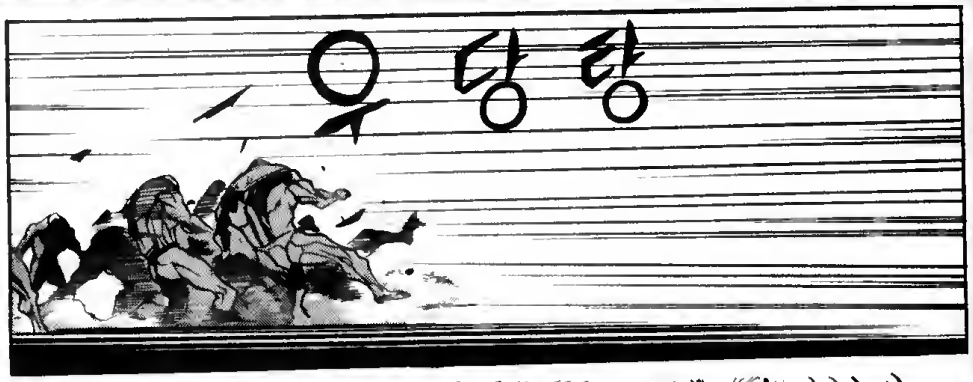
BLADE OF HEAVEN



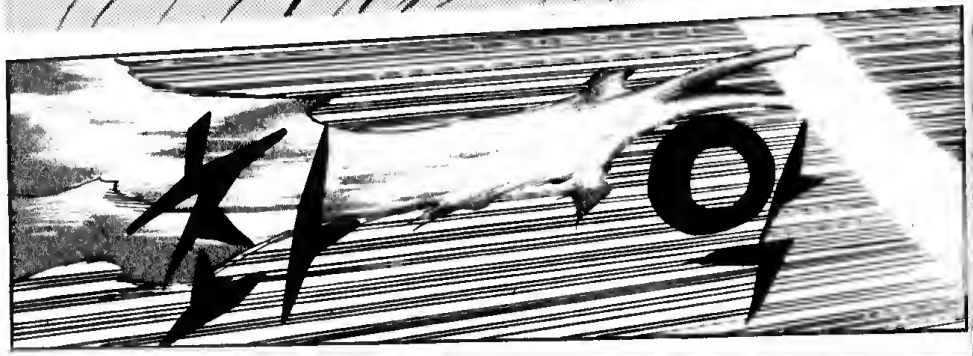
Quicksand Puppets:
Warrior drones born of sand via sorcery. Guardians of the Fifth Sa Shep Sa Death Gateway, they have the ability to shape shift their sandy bodies at will.



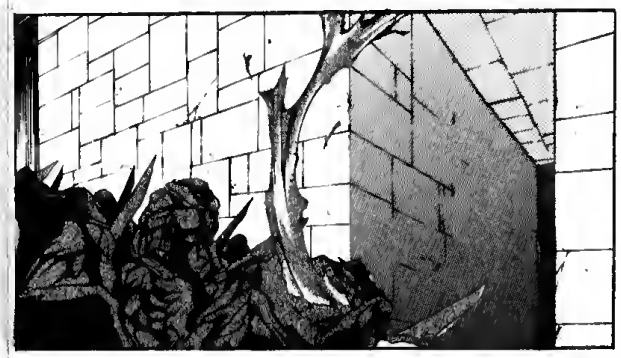




우당탕


쿠우우

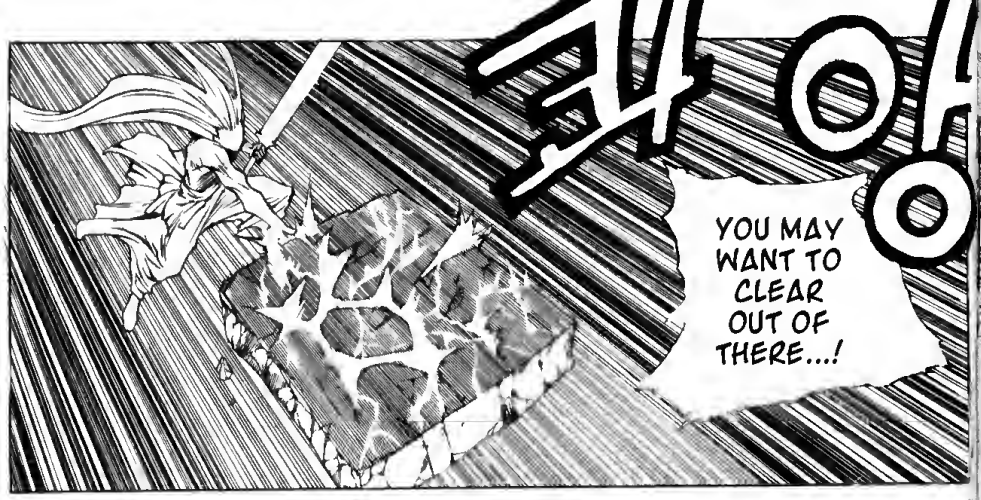
파앗



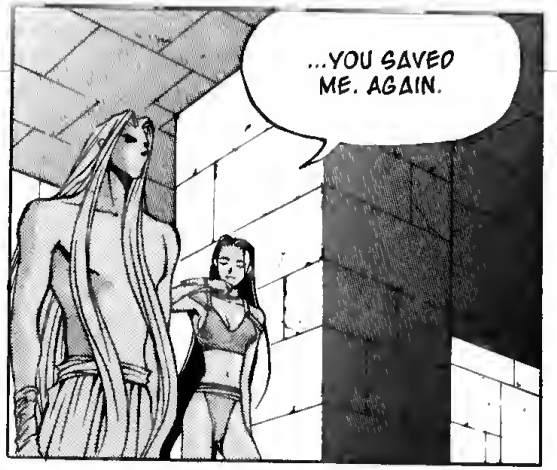
FOUL DEMON!! I WILL SEND YOU BACK TO THE CURSED EARTH THAT SPAWNED YOU!!

아아

SUFFER THE FLAMES OF MY DEATH BLAZE !!
NOOO!! STAY BACK!!
IT'S NO USE! I STRIKE ONE DOWN-- AND THREE MORE TAKE ITS PLACE!!
파아
피이이
아아아

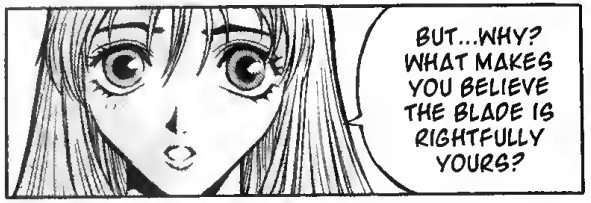

YOU MAY WANT TO CLEAR OUT OF THERE...!

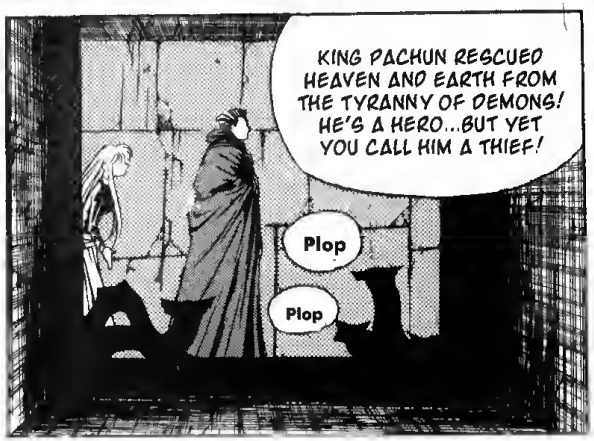
HUNH!
YOU...

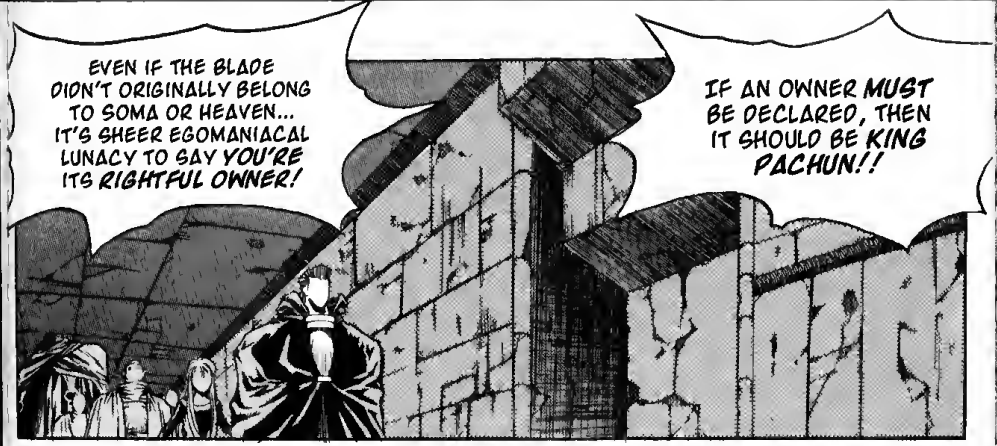

...YOU SAVED ME. AGAIN.

FORCE OF HABIT. BUT WE ARE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET. THESE CREATURES...
...THEY SEEM TO BE *INDESTRUCTIBLE.* I DON'T THINK THEY ARE *ALIVE.*

HUFF...
HUFF..
WHICH POSES THE QUESTION--
HUFF
--HOW DO WE KILL WHAT IS ALREADY DEAD?
IT IS MY SWORN DUTY TO RETRIEVE THE BLADE OF HEAVEN AND BRING ITS THIEF TO JUSTICE. I SEEK ONLY JUSTICE FOR MY PEOPLE.
I WAS WONDERING... YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE SUCH A BAD PERSON. SO JUST WHY ARE YOU AFTER SOMA?
TH-THANK YOU...FOR SAVING US...!
IS THAT WHAT I DID?

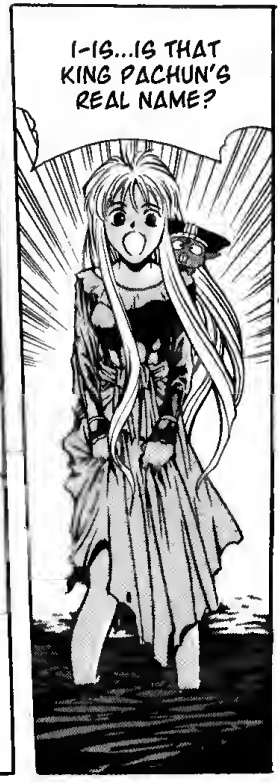

BUT...WHY? WHAT MAKES YOU BELIEVE THE BLADE IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS?

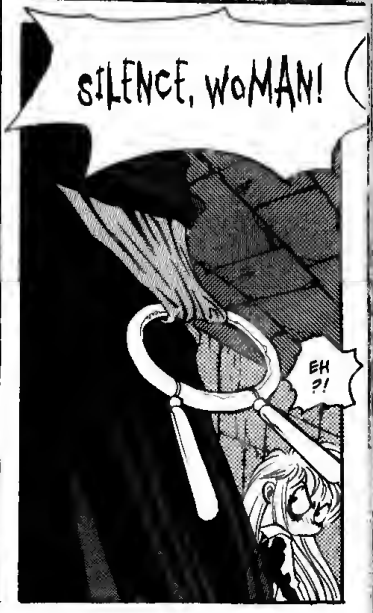

KING PACHUN RESCUED HEAVEN AND EARTH FROM THE TYRANNY OF DEMONS! HE'S A HERO...BUT YET YOU CALL HIM A THIEF!
Plop
Plop


EVEN IF THE BLADE DIDN'T ORIGINALLY BELONG TO SOMA OR HEAVEN... IT'S SHEER EGOMANIACAL LUNACY TO SAY YOU'RE ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER!
IF AN OWNER MUST BE DECLARED, THEN IT SHOULD BE KING PACHUN!!

WE DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE KING PACHUN...NOR DO WE HAVE ANY INTEREST IN HIM.
WHETHER HE SAVED THE WORLD OR NOT IS OF NO CONCERN TO US. WHAT MATTERS IS THAT A MAN NAMED CHUN, A MAN FROM THE EASTERN RACE, BETRAYED US AND STOLE THE BLADE.

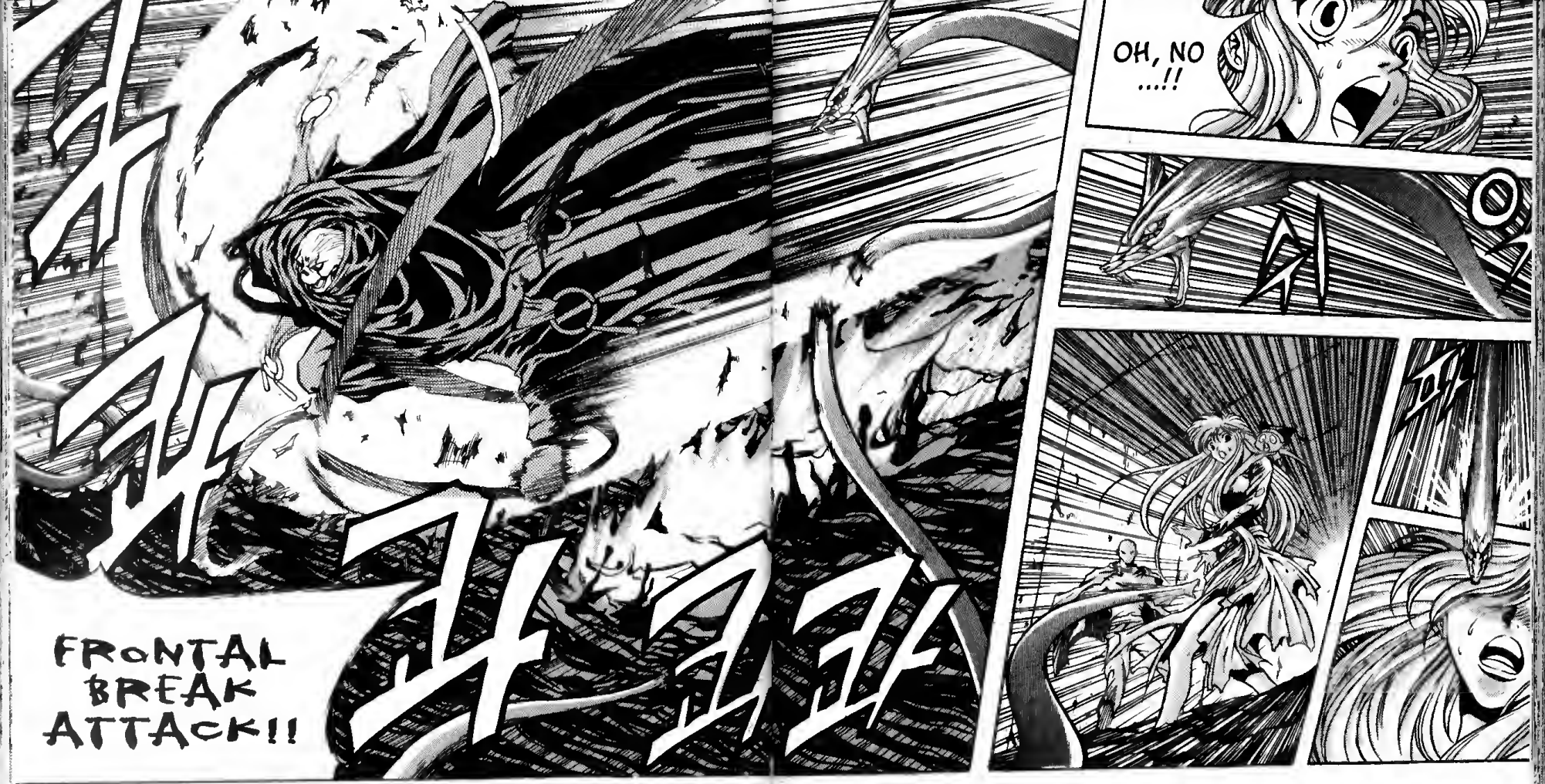
CHUN...? COULD THAT BE...?


I-IS...IS THAT KING PACHUN'S REAL NAME?


SILENCE, WOMAN!
EH ?!

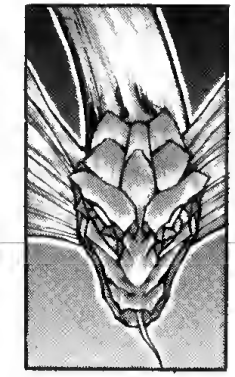
WHAT?! YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE, MISTER!! YOU'RE THE REASON WE'RE IN THIS PREDICAMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE!! IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU THAT FAT NINJA, CHULDO AND DONG DONG ARE MISSING!!
WE WERE ALREADY IN A BAD WAY, BUT YOU JUST HAD TO BREAK OPEN THE MAZE AND POUR SALT ON THE WOUND, DIDN'T YOU?!
NO! LET ME GO! I'M NOT AFRAID OF HIM!
FINE! I'LL LET IT GO... FOR NOW. BUT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO THEM, THERE'LL BE HELL TO...
...PAY ...?
ER...WHAT IS...?
SONIC DEATH SNAKES! EVERYONE BE QUIET!
THEIR ATTACKS ARE BASED ON SOUND WAVES!!
AIIIEEE!!
WHAT'S THIS...? I SENSE SOMETHING... SOMETHING MOVING...!
THERE...! JUST BENEATH THE WATER'S SURFACE ...!
YOUNG LADY, WORRY NOT FOR YOUR FRIENDS. FOUR OF MY BEST MEN ARE WITH THEM, SO THEY ARE WELL PROTECTED.
GA-U!
GA-U!

IT IS TOO LATE. THEY ARE ALERTED TO OUR PRESENCE.
MY OBJECTIVE IS TO ESCORT THE YOUNG MASTER TO KING MACHUNROO!
ALL THAT DARE STAND BEFORE ME WILL KNOW MY FURY!


FRONTAL BREAK ATTACK!!
OH, NO ...!!

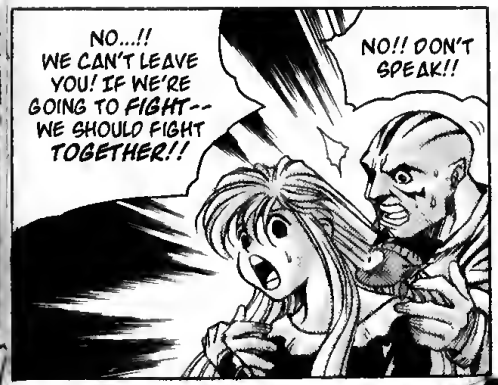
GAAK!
I-IT...P-PENETRATED... MY FORCE... F...IELD...

AAAAH!!
SONIC DEATH SNAKES' EYESIGHT MAY BE POOR--BUT THEY CAN HEAR A PIN DROP!
SHHH...! WE MUSTN'T MAKE A SOUND...!

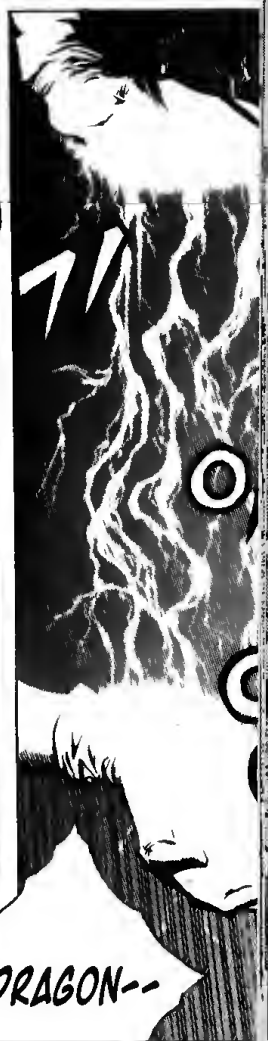


DIE FIENDS!!

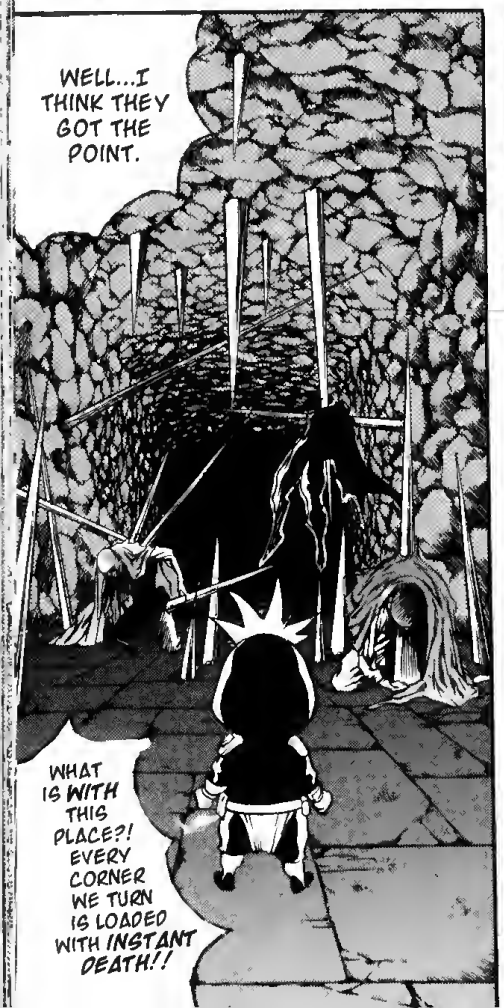
EVERYONE-- TAKE THE PRINCESS AND ESCAPE! I'LL BUY YOU SOME TIME!!
HO AHN PO HYO ATTACK!!


NO...!! WE CAN'T LEAVE YOU! IF WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT-- WE SHOULD FIGHT TOGETHER!!
NO!! DON'T SPEAK!!

MOVE ASIDE, ORACLE!!
YOUR POWERS WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON THEM!!


DRAGON--

--ENERGY SWORD!!

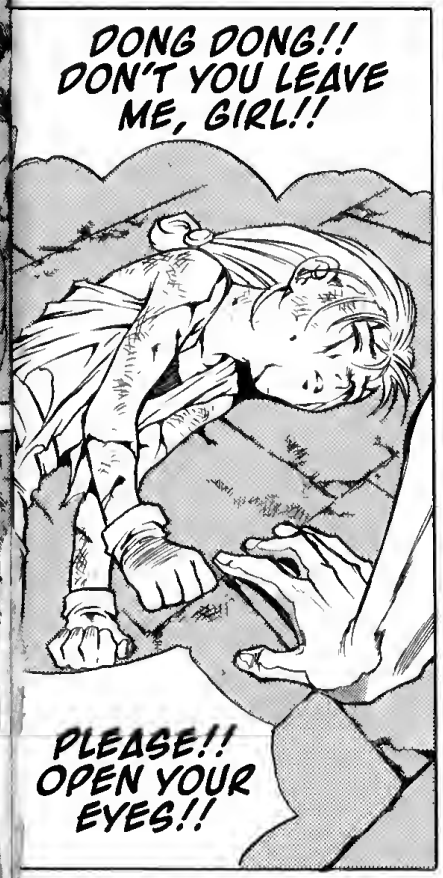

WELL...I THINK THEY GOT THE POINT.
WHAT IS WITH THIS PLACE?! EVERY CORNER WE TURN IS LOADED WITH INSTANT DEATH!!

I WONDER IF THE OTHERS ARE FARING ANY BETTER...?

WHO CARES?! ME DONG DONG IS DYING!! THAT BE ALL THAT MATTERS!!

UHH... CHUL... CHULDO ...

HUH? Y-YES, DONG DONG! I'M RIGHT HERE, LASS!


DONG DONG!! DON'T YOU LEAVE ME, GIRL!!
PLEASE!! OPEN YOUR EYES!!

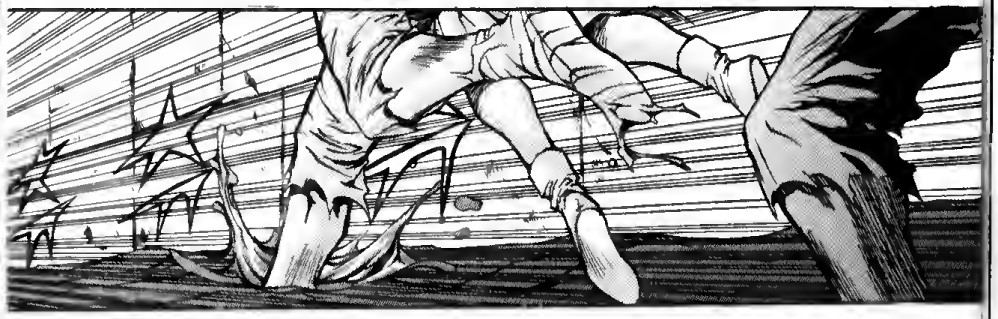
HUFF
PUFF
SH-SHE'S... SHE'S LOST TOO MUCH...B-BLOOD. IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING SOON...

SHE...SHE'S DYIN'...ME DONG DONG...SHE'S...

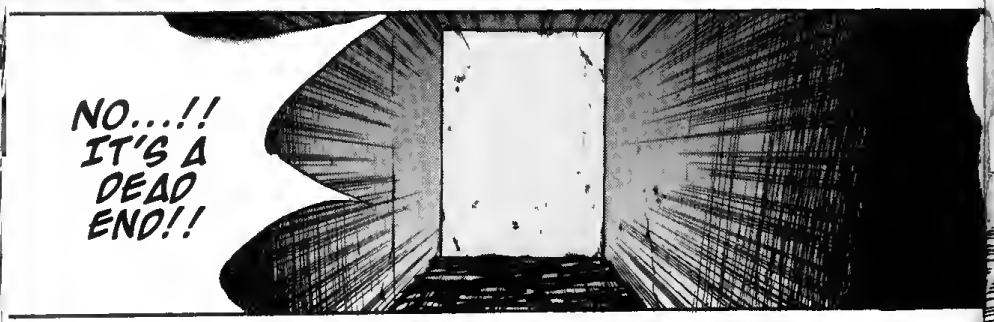
AND I CAN'T...DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
NO...

NO!! I WON'T JUST SIT ON MY LAURELS AND LET ME DONG DONG DIE LIKE THIS!!

ME AND YOU...WERE SUPPOSED TO BE F-FOREVER...
꺄!
악



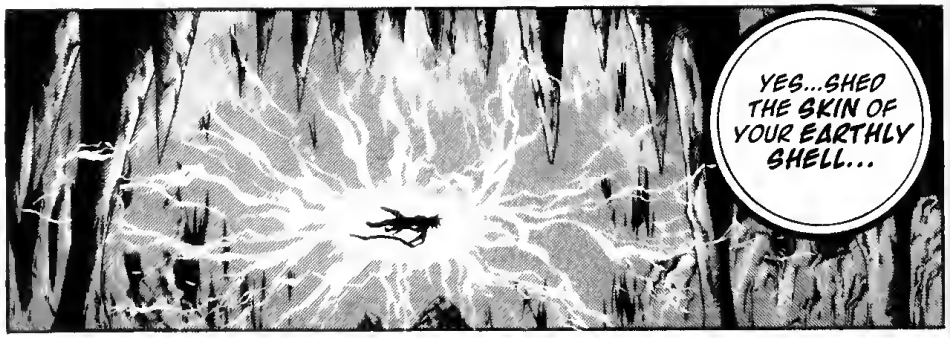
THEY'RE GAINING ON US!!


NO...!! IT'S A DEAD END!!

THERE'S NO WAY OUT!!

WE'RE TRAPPED!!

SOMA...! WHERE ARE YOU?!

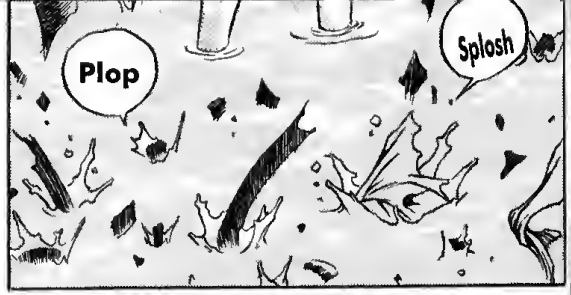


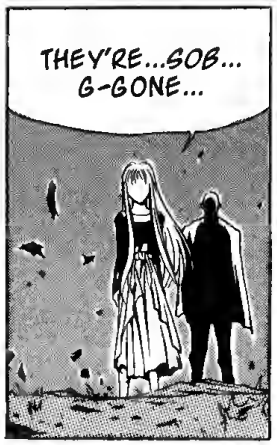
BLADE OF HEAVEN

STEADY, MY BROTHERS! IF WE ARE DESTINED TO DIE--THEN SO BE IT!!
BUT GREET IT NOT WITH SORROW IN YOUR HEART--BUT WITH A CLOSED FIST AND A SWORD!
FOR WE ARE THE--
--WILD--
--BEAST--
--CLAN!!
WE GLADLY GIVE OUR LIVES TO PROTECT THE WEAK AND INNOCENT!!

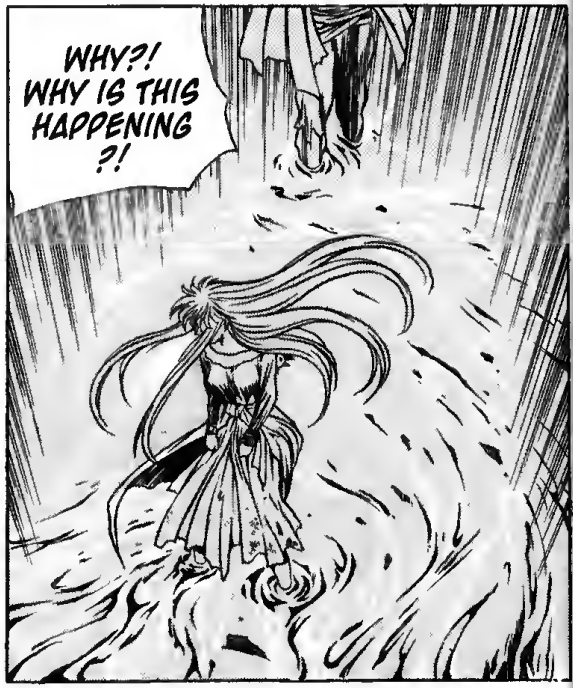
OUR ONLY REGRET ONCE WE LEAVE THIS MORTAL COIL...
Shrrk!
...IS THAT WE WILL DIE BEFORE WE CAN HUMBLY BOW BEFORE THE DIVINE GRACE!!
BUT I'M SURE THE BODIES OF THE SLITHERING VERMIN WE SENT TO THE AFTERLIFE WILL CUSHION OUR FALL!

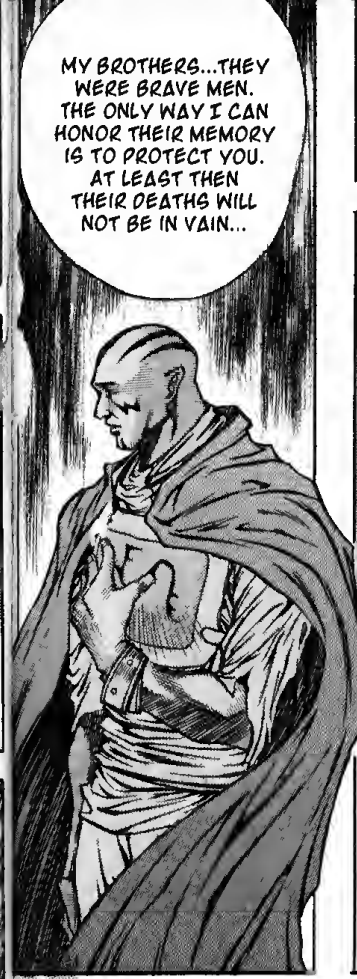
WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING?! IT'S SUICIDE TO JUST STAND THERE!!
THEY'RE EXPANDING THE ENERGY FROM WITHIN THEIR BODIES!
STAY BACK, PRINCESS! THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING!!
IT WILL DESTROY NOT ONLY THEM--BUT THE SNAKES, AS WELL. THEY'RE SACRIFICING THEMSELVES TO SAVE US!
N-NO... D-DON'T...
I FEEL YOU FORKED-TONGUED DEVILS...UNH... TRYING TO WIGGLE YOUR WAY OUT OF MY BODY! BUT YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE OUR WRATH!!
THE TASK IS NOW YOURS, BROTHER!! YOU MUST GET HER TO SAFETY!!
NO!! STOP!!

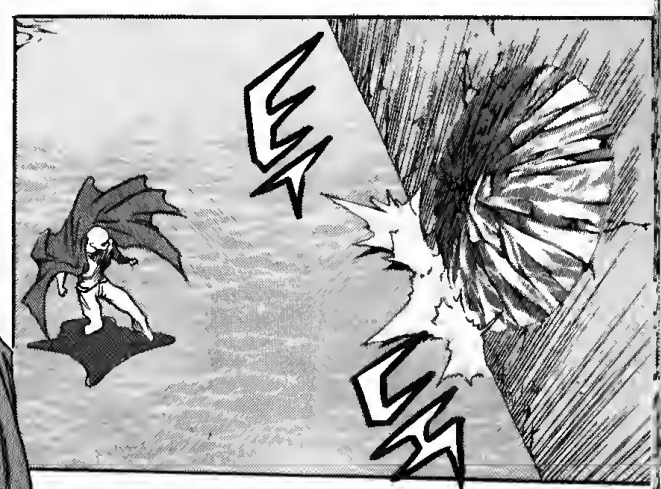

Plop
Splosh


THEY'RE...SOB... G-GONE...

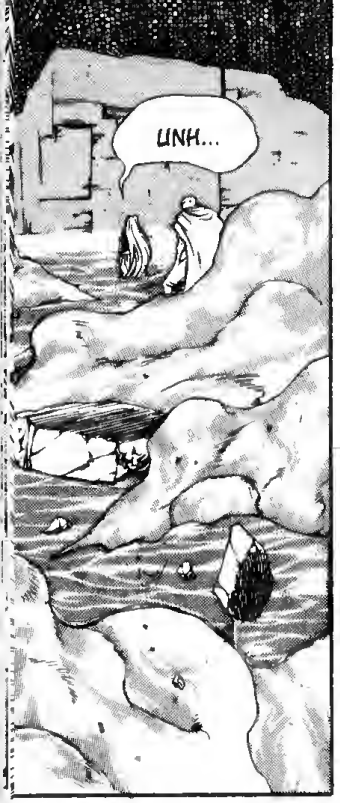
IT'S LIKE...SOB... THEY WERE NEVER EVEN HERE...!


WHY?! WHY IS THIS HAPPENING ?!


MY BROTHERS...THEY WERE BRAVE MEN. THE ONLY WAY I CAN HONOR THEIR MEMORY IS TO PROTECT YOU. AT LEAST THEN THEIR DEATHS WILL NOT BE IN VAIN...

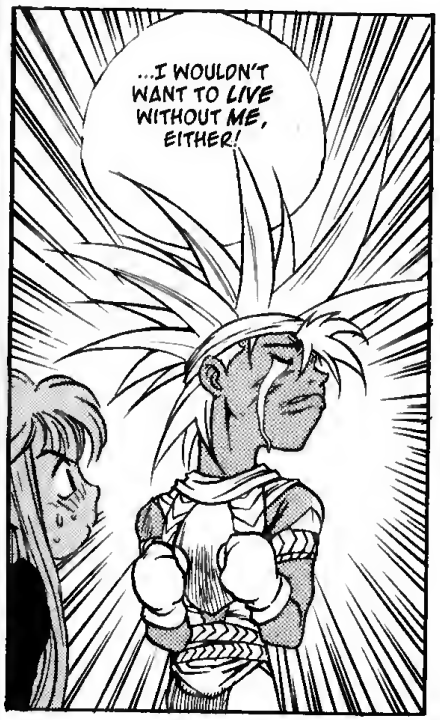


PRINCESS!! LOOK OUT!!


UNH...

Y'KNOW...I WAS GONNA KNOCK, BUT THEN I SAW THE LIGHT ON. SO I FIGURED I'D JUST COME RIGHT IN.

SOMA?!

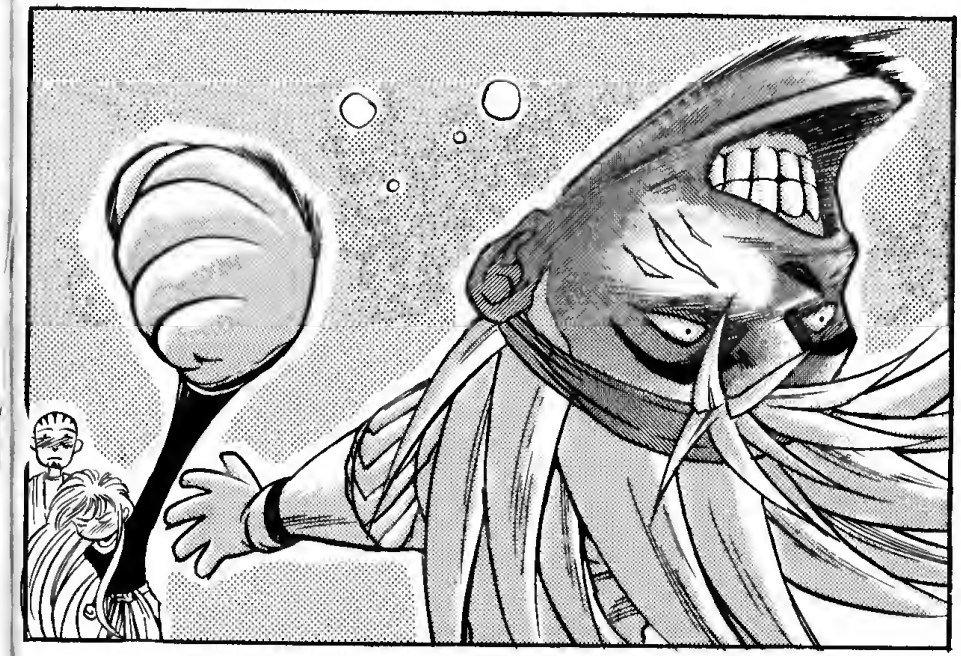

...I WOULDN'T WANT TO LIVE WITHOUT ME, EITHER!

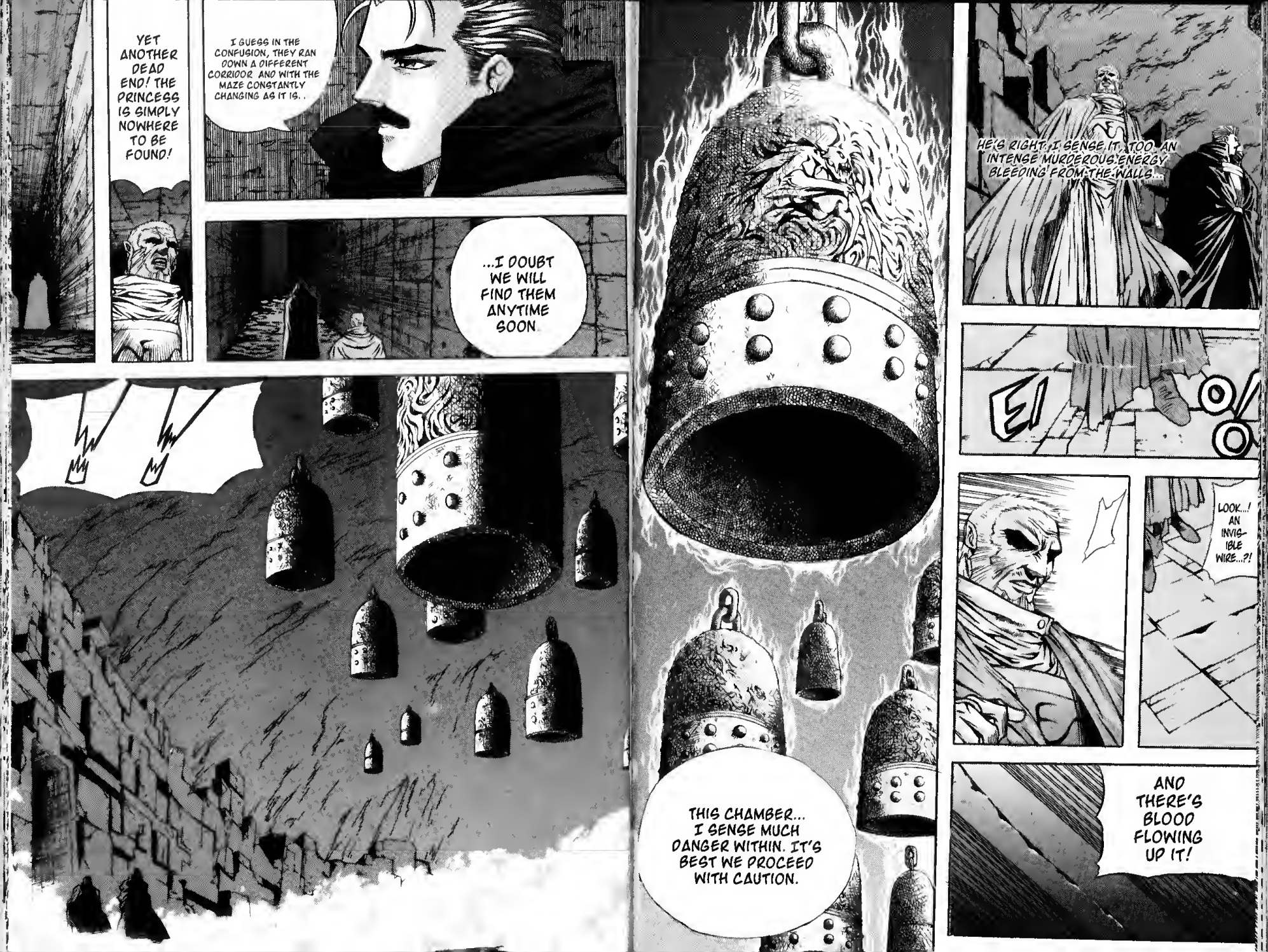
BUT DON'T YOU GO WORRYING YOUR PRETTY LITTLE BLONDE HEAD ANYMORE! YOUR KAYKEE-WAYKEE IS HERE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU...!

SHOO

SOMA!! YOU'RE ALIVE!! WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE DEAD!!
?

WHERE WERE YOU?! WE'VE-- I'VE--BEEN SO WORRIED!!
THE THOUGHT OF YOU DEAD...I JUST WOULDN'T WANT TO GO ON WITHOUT YOU!! I'D RATHER DIE FIRST!!
IT'S OKAY, TOOTS. I'M HERE, NOW. THOUGH, I CAN'T REALLY BLAME YOU...



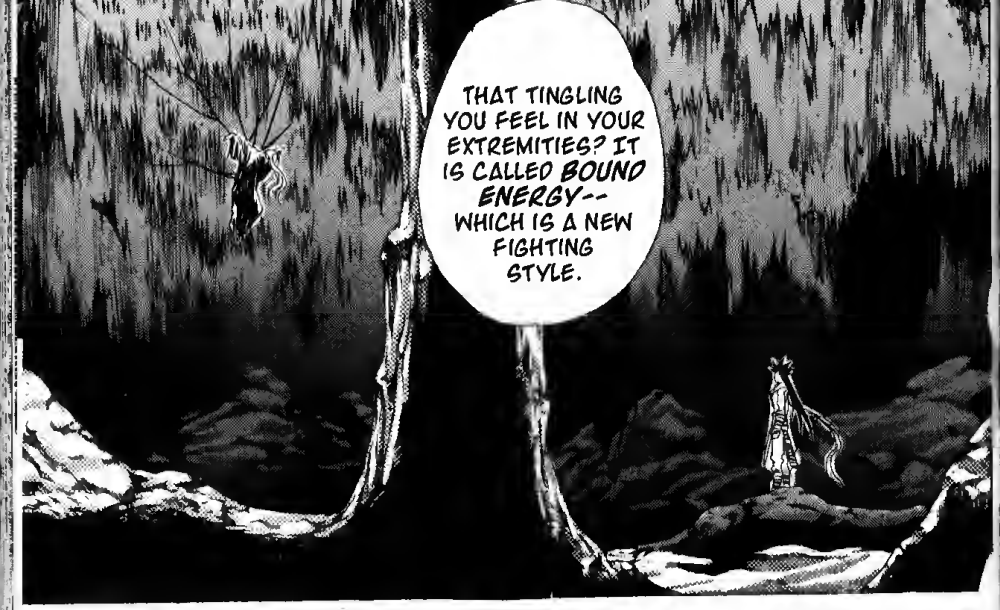

YET ANOTHER DEAD END! THE PRINCESS IS SIMPLY NOWHERE TO BE FOUND!
I GUESS IN THE CONFUSION, THEY RAN DOWN A DIFFERENT CORRIDOR AND WITH THE MAZE CONSTANTLY CHANGING AS IT IS..
...I DOUBT WE WILL FIND THEM ANYTIME SOON.
THIS CHAMBER... I SENSE MUCH DANGER WITHIN. IT'S BEST WE PROCEED WITH CAUTION.
HE'S RIGHT. I SENSE IT, TOO. AN INTENSE MURDEROUS ENERGY BLEEDING FROM THE WALLS...
EI
LOOK...! AN INVISIBLE WIRE...?!
AND THERE'S BLOOD FLOWING UP IT!

WHAT'S THIS--?! THE CARVINGS ON THE BELLS ARE ABSORBING THE BLOOD!
KWA
SKREEE!!

ヒィ
フォォ
YOUR FRIENDS ARE MUCH MORE RESILIENT THAN I THOUGHT.
HOWEVER... THEY FIGHT TO PROLONG THE INEVITABLE.
YOU WILL ALL SOON LEARN THE FOLLY OF YOUR WAYS.
TRY AS YOU MIGHT -- YOU CANNOT WIN AGAINST THE GUARDIANS OF THE GATE-WAYS!

THE GATEWAYS ARE THE ULTIMATE EQUALIZER.
NO MATTER WHO OR WHERE YOU ARE, YOU WILL ALL MEET THE SAME DOOM! ONLY THE CHOSEN ONE WILL SURVIVE!
HUH...? JEEZ! I WAKE UP AND YOU'RE STILL PRATTLING ON!

BLADE OF HEAVEN


THAT TINGLING YOU FEEL IN YOUR EXTREMITIES? IT IS CALLED BOUND ENERGY-- WHICH IS A NEW FIGHTING STYLE.

A NEW STYLE...?!

TYPICALLY, THE ENERGY AT THE CORE OF EVERY FIGHTING STYLE IS SPECIFIC TO THAT STYLE.

SINCE EACH OF YOUR FIGHTING SKILLS HAS AN INDIVIDUAL ENERGY TYPE, YOUR ABILITIES HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO COMBINE AS ONE ENTITY--INHIBITING YOUR INABILITY TO EVOLVE INTO A TRUE AND COMPLETE WARRIOR.
TO TRULY UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF THE HEART SWORD, YOUR SKILLS MUST BE SYMBIOTIC!
THE BLADE WILL ONLY OBEY ONE WHOSE HEART IS STRONG AND FOCUSED!

Y'KNOW, IF YOU EVER DECIDED TO CLIMB DOWN FROM THERE AND STOP BEING A FREAK JOB, YOU COULD MAKE A KILLING IN THE FORTUNE COOKIE BIZ...!
THERE IS NO TIME FOR TALK! YOU MUST HURRY AND LEAVE BEFORE EXITS ARE BLOCKED!
NO...I CAN'T LEAVE MY FRIENDS!
ヨ!
ヨヨヨ
THE GATEWAY WAS DEVISED TO PROTECT THE OWNER OF THE HEART SWORD FROM INVADERS.
IT MATTERS NOT IF THE INTRUDER IS FAVORED BY THE GODS THEMSELVES-- THE GATEWAY DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AMONGST THE DAMNED. THOSE THAT CROSS ITS THRESHOLD SHALL PERISH!
WAIT... DID HE SAY THAT THERE ARE EXITS?! SO THERE IS A WAY OUT!!
THE SKY IS F--I MEAN, THE CEILING! THE CEILING IS FALLING!
ヨヨヨ
I'D DEFINITELY SAY WE'VE OVERSTAYED OUR WELCOME!! C'MON!!
ヨ!
ヨ!

HUH?! IT STOPPED...?! WHAT GIVES...?!
NO WAY!! YOU WANNA BECOME HUMAN JELLY, DO IT ON YOUR TIME!! I'M NOT GONNA LEAVE YOU!!
IT DIDN'T STOP!! CHULDO'S JUST HOLDING IT UP!!
CHULDO, YOU DOPE!! THIS IS NO TIME FOR SQUAT THRUSTS!! GET MOVING!!
HURK!!
D-DAMN Y-YOUR EYES...!! J-JUST DO IT!!
OPEN Y-YOUR EYES, YER D-DAFT SWAB!! THE S-SECOND I L-LIFT MY HANDS, WE'LL BE CRUSHED!!
OR D-DO YEH ALL WISH TO D-DIE LIKE B-BILGE R-RATS?!
I-IT...BE TOO L-LATE FOR ME! T-TAKE ME DONG DONG OFF ME B-BODY!!
I... C-CAN'T... H-HOLD IT... M-MUCH...L-LONGER...!!
P-PLEASE... S-SAVE HER...!
SAY WHAT?!

CHULDO...?
J-JUST...HUNH... PROMISE ME...URK... O-ONE THING!
L-LOOK...AFTER H-HER, FAT NINJA! PLEASE... P-PROTECT HER...
B-BUT...
SH-SHED NO T-TEARS...FOR THIS SALTY DOG, LAD. I'VE H-HAD MEH A MIGHTY FINE RUN OF IT...
WELL? YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO! SO GET TO IT!!
DON'T YOU WORRY, CHULDO! I WON'T LET YOU DOWN! I'LL KEEP HER SAFE!!
I K-KNOW... LAD...I KNOW...
GOODBYE, DONG DONG...MY SWEET, SWEET DAUGHTER!
NO BUTS!! JUST PROMISE ME!!
I...I PROMISE...

THOUGH IT'S NOT QUITE THE SAME...THIS PLACE IS...
...VERY SIMILAR TO THE EASTERN RACE'S GATEWAYS OF DEATH!
THOUGH YOU CAN GO FROM GATEWAY TO GATEWAY--THERE IS NO ESCAPING FROM THIS MAZE!!

THE ONLY APPARENT EXIT IS THROUGH DEATH...!

STRANGE... WHILE I WAS UNCONSCIOUS... I COULD'VE SWORN I HEARD AROOMEE CALL OUT TO ME!
WHATEVER!
JUST TELL ME HOW I CAN FIND IT!!
WHERE'S THE PRINCESS?!
THEY KNEW THE RISK! YET THEY FOOLISHLY LAID THEIR NECKS ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK ALL THE SAME!
THEY CAME HERE TO HELP ME! YOU CALL THAT NEEDLESS?! THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS DO!
VERY WELL IF YOU MUST. THERE IS A WAY TO SAVE THEM. IT ENTAILS LOCATING THE GATEWAY'S NUCLEUS BEFORE IT IS BLOCKED...
IF SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO HER, SO HELP ME, I'LL STRANGLE YOU WITH YOUR OWN ROPES!
BUT I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT, WOULD YOU?!
IF YOUR HEART IS STRONG ENOUGH, THE HEART SWORD WILL GUIDE YOU!
PAL--INSIDE OR OUTSIDE VOICE! PICK ONE, HUH?! AND WHAT'S THIS "MY HEART WILL GUIDE ME" CRAP?!
I MEAN, TWO LEFTS AND A RIGHT WOULD BE PERFECTLY FINE!
THE TIME TO ACT DRAWS NIGH!
THE FATES OF YOUR FRIENDS LIE WITHIN YOUR HANDS!

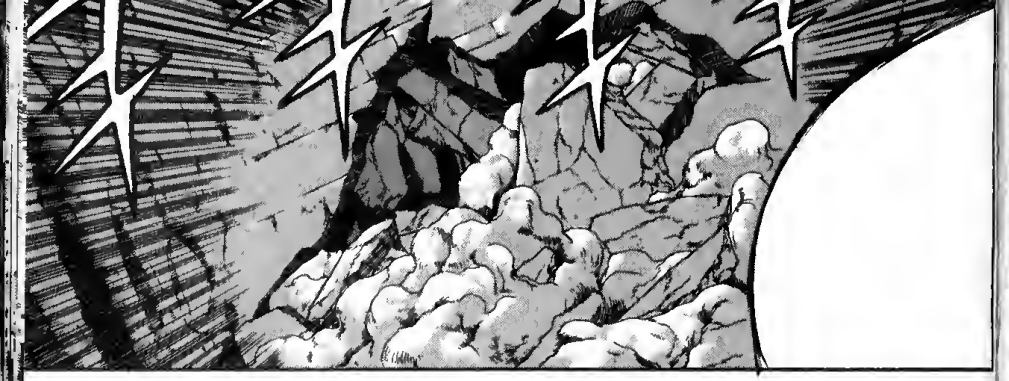
HOLY-- HE'S FADING AWAY!
HEED MY WORDS, BOY... ONCE YOU SAFELY EXIT THE GATEWAYS, YOU WILL BECOME A WORTHY WIELDER OF THE HEART SWORD!
빈
짜
YOU CAN SAVE THE OMINOUS FORESHADOWING, MAC! I'M GETTING' US ALL OUTTA HERE ALIVE! JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE!!
FOOm!!
CRIPES...! EVEN HIS EXITS ARE LONG-WINDED!
UH-OH! LOOKS LIKE THE EXITS ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO CLOSE!
JUST ONCE I WANNA HAVE A DAY WHEN I'M NOT DODGING CHUNKS OF DEBRIS!

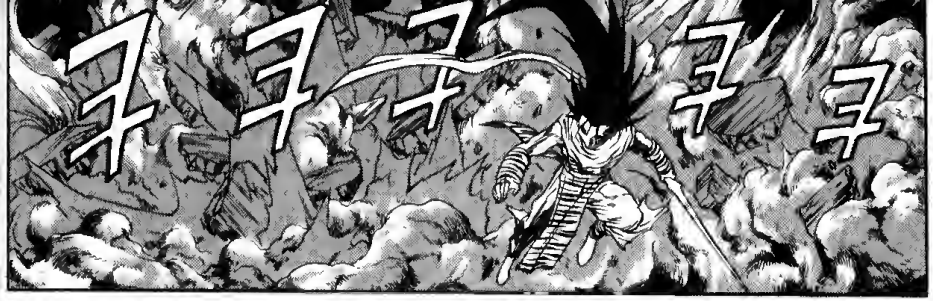
WHAT DID HE SAY AGAIN...? MY ABILITIES WILL WHAT NOW? CRAP! I KNEW I SHOULD'VE PAID ATTENTION!
HE SAID...IF MY HEART IS STRONG...
...THE HEART SWORD WILL GUIDE ME!
THE BLADE IS OUR TICKET OUT OF HERE!!
WHAT IS THIS ENERGY ...?!
IT FEELS AS IF MY BODY IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE!!
MY BRAIN...! IT'S ON FIRE!
I'M BECOMING ONE WITH THE BLADE...! IT'S LOOKING INTO MY HEART!!

Moo Nyum Hwa Jo: The Divine Groce Heart Sword has the obility to meld minds with the wielder. Within Somo's bady is neorly limitless energy thot, when chonneled through the Heart Sword, will allaw Soma to see with the Divine Grace's eyes.

I'M SEEING WITH ITS EYES...! IT FEELS LIKE I CAN MELT ALL BEFORE ME WITH MERELY A GAZE!!
I'M FLYING BESIDE IT. NO... I AM IT! MY WINGSPAN IS WIDE ENOUGH TO COVER HEAVEN ITSELF!
I...I CAN SEE...EVERY-THING...

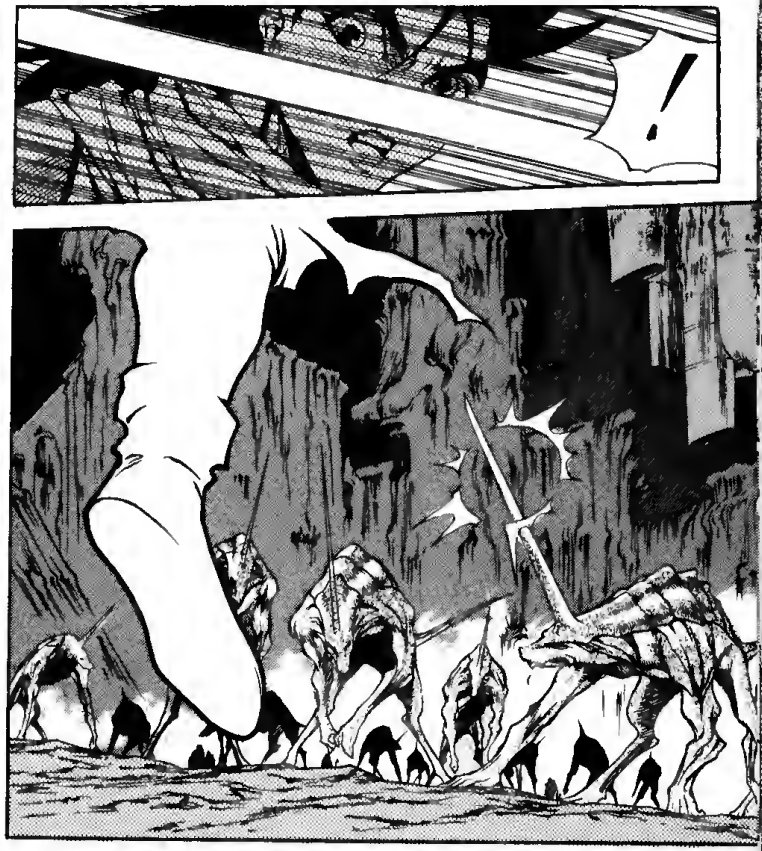
THE DIVINE GRACE...IT'S SHOWING ME THE WAY...
EVERYTHING IS SUDDENLY AS CLEAR AS DAY!
I CAN DO IT! I CAN RESCUE MY FRIENDS!!
HELL, YEAH!! NOW THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKIN' 'BOUT!!
LEAD THE WAY, YOU MAGNIFICENT BUZZARD, YOU!!



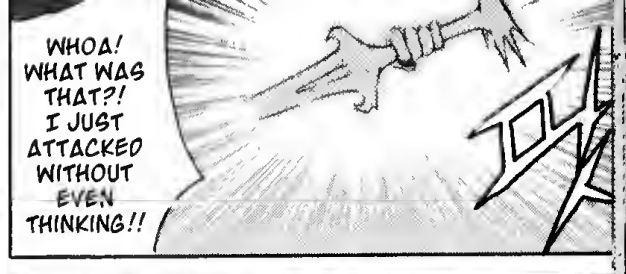


WHOA! THE LION ENERGY HAS BECOME TEN TIMES STRONGER!

A LITTLE BLADE OF HEAVEN LION ENERGY WILL POP THIS PIMPLE!!



YOU JERKS ARE SO DEAD!!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!!


WHOA! WHAT WAS THAT?! I JUST ATTACKED WITHOUT EVEN THINKING!!

IT'S THE HEART SWORD!! IT'S READING MY MIND!!

OH, YEAH... THIS IS ONE KILLER UPGRADE.
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU GOT...
EH
YOU GUYS CALLED DOWN THE THUNDER--SO HERE'S THE LIGHTNING! I'LL DESTROY ALL OF YOU WITH ONE BLOW!!

I'LL CHANNEL THE BLADE'S LION ENERGY--
-- THROUGH THE HEART SWORD !!

FOR THOSE THAT HARBOR EVIL IN THEIR HEARTS, THE CRY OF THE DIVINE GRACE EVOKES ONLY THE DARKEST FEAR... BUT FOR THOSE PURE OF HEART, THE SOUND FILLS THEM WITH RAPTUROUS STRENGTH!
LEGEND TELLS US...
...THAT ONCE... FOR A FLEETING MOMENT...WHEN THE WORLD IS SHROUDED IN DARKNESS...
...THE DIVINE GRACE WILL SPRING FORTH FROM ITS WATERY COCOON AND ASSUME THE FORM OF A MAN.

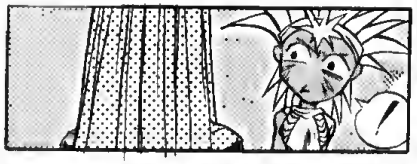
THAT MAN IS DESTINED TO SAVE THE WORLD!
THAT'S THE DUMBEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD!!
TALK ABOUT DELUSIONAL! EVERYONE KNOWS THE BLADE RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO ME!!
THERE MUST BE A SPRING LOOSE IN THE OL' "GEARS OF DESTINY" OR SOMETHIN'...! OR MAYBE IT'S THE SPIKY HAIR! YEP! GUY STEALS MY 'DO AND GETS MISTAKEN FOR ME...
THIS IS OUR CHANCE! LET'S GO!
NO! WE MUSTN'T BE RASH! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT DANGERS LAY AHEAD...!
B-BUT... SOMA IS--

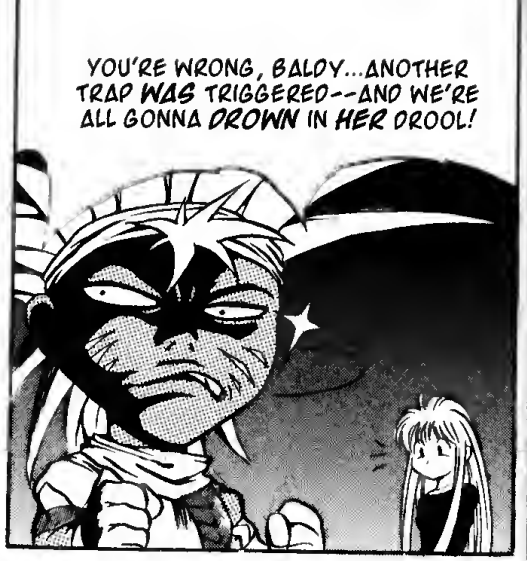
HEY...YOU GUYS HEAR THAT...?
YEAH. WHERE'S IT COMING FROM?
YOU DON'T SUPPOSE ANOTHER TRAP'S BEEN TRIGGERED, DO YOU?!
NO...IT'S NOT THAT. THE SOUND IS COMING FROM SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY...

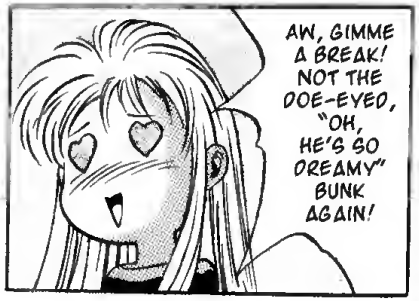
WHATEVER IT IS...IT'S MAKING ITS WAY TO US...

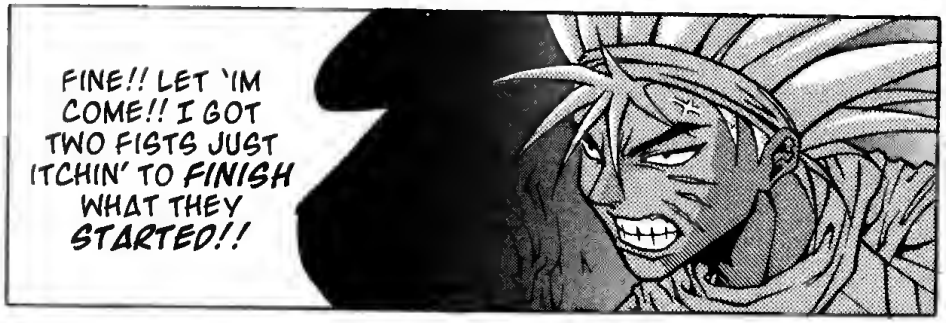
IT ALMOST...IT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE WALLS CRUMBLING!

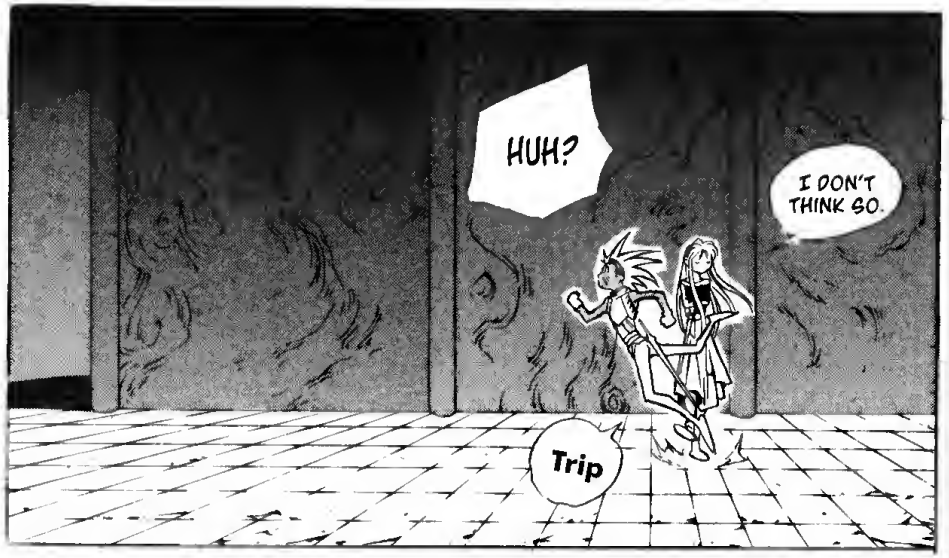
SOMA! I BET SOMA'S COME TO RESCUE US!

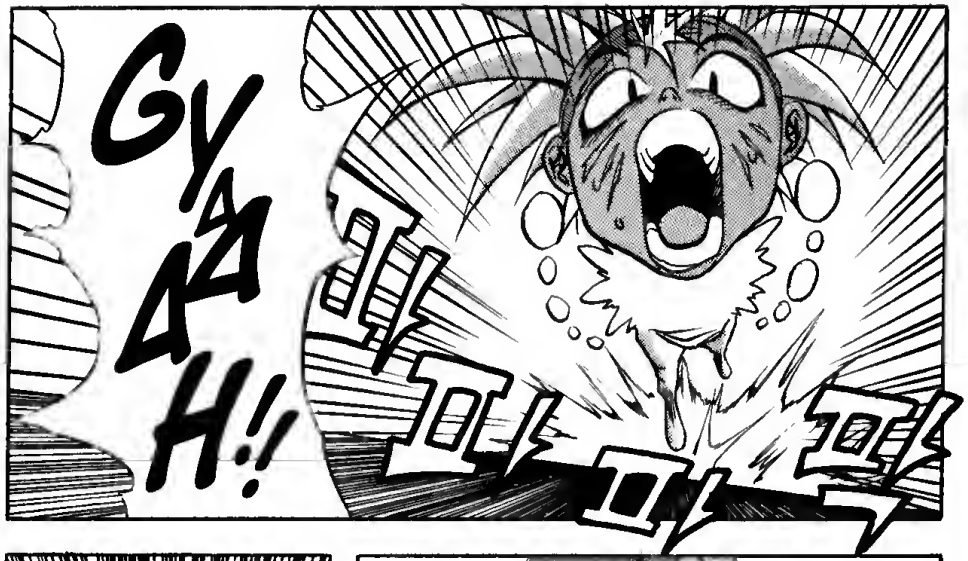



YOU'RE WRONG, BALDY...ANOTHER TRAP WAS TRIGGERED--AND WE'RE ALL GONNA DROWN IN HER DROOL!

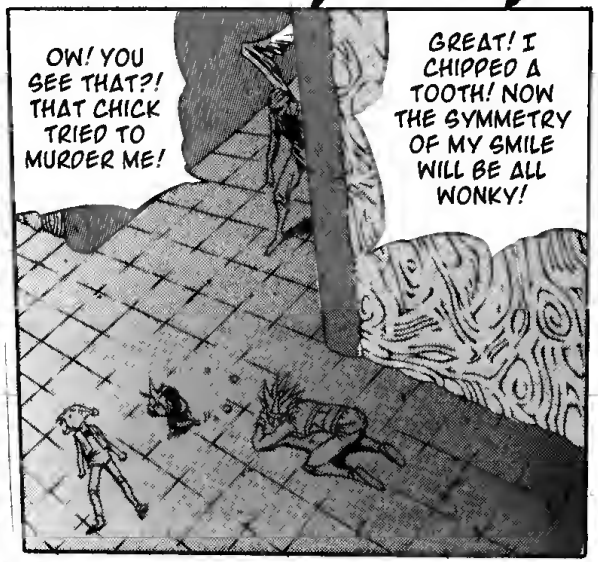

AW, GIMME A BREAK! NOT THE DOE-EYED, "OH, HE'S SO DREAMY" BUNK AGAIN!


FINE!! LET 'IM COME!! I GOT TWO FISTS JUST ITCHIN' TO FINISH WHAT THEY STARTED!!

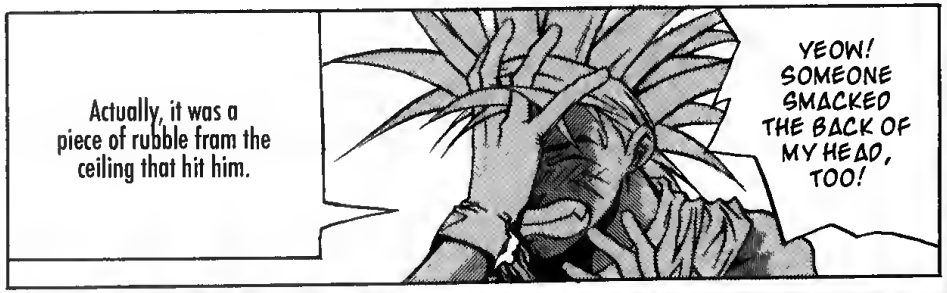

HUH?
I DON'T THINK SO.
Trip

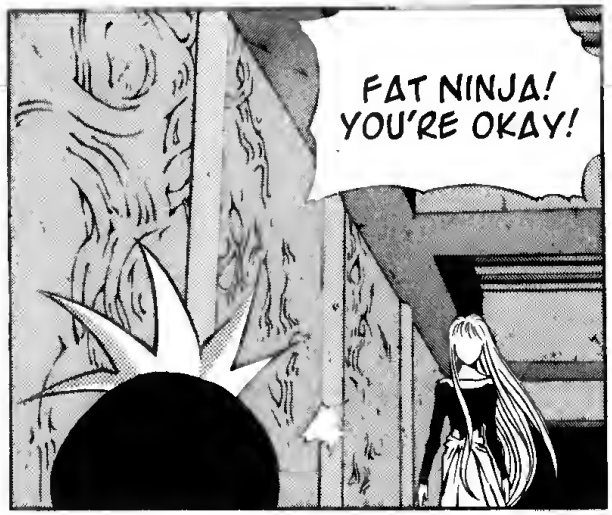

GYAAH!!

OF
OF


OW! YOU SEE THAT?! THAT CHICK TRIED TO MURDER ME!
GREAT! I CHIPPED A TOOTH! NOW THE SYMMETRY OF MY SMILE WILL BE ALL WONKY!

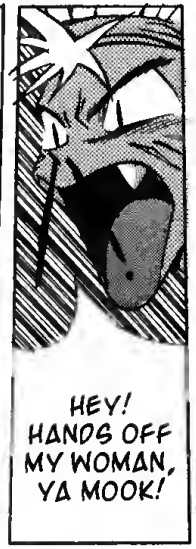
...!


Actually, it was a piece of rubble from the ceiling that hit him.
YEOW! SOMEONE SMACKED THE BACK OF MY HEAD, TOO!


FAT NINJA! YOU'RE OKAY!

AROO-HOO-MEE!!

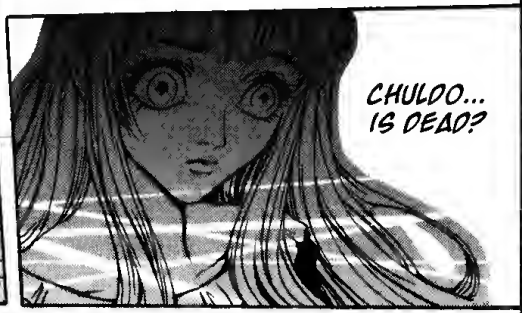
WAAHAHAA!!

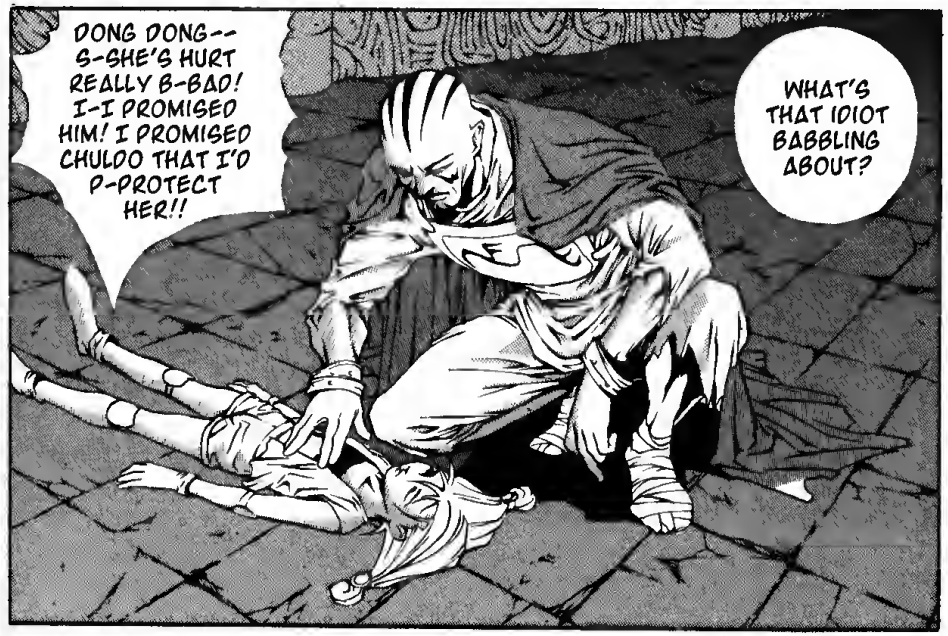

HEY! HANDS OFF MY WOMAN, YA MOOK!

YES, YES...I KNOW. I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU, TOO! YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRY ANYMORE!
TH-THAT'S NOT W-WHY I'M CRYIN'...! CHULDO...HE...H-HE...

THE C-CEILING WAS F-FALLING... SOB...AND CHULDO...SOB... HE CAUGHT IT...AND... AND...!
AND WHAT?

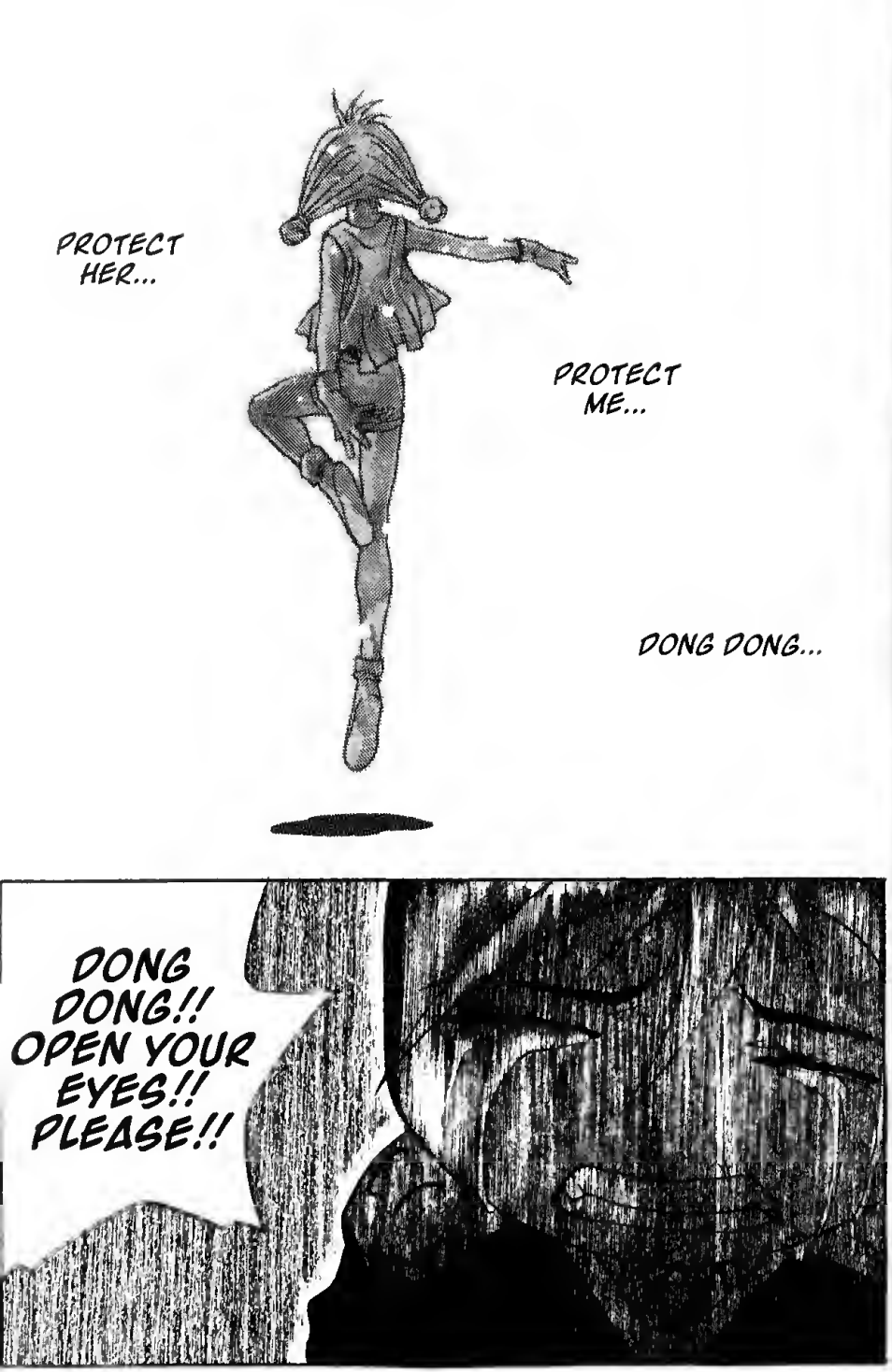
HE'S DEAD!! HE DIED SAVING US!!


CHULDO... IS DEAD?

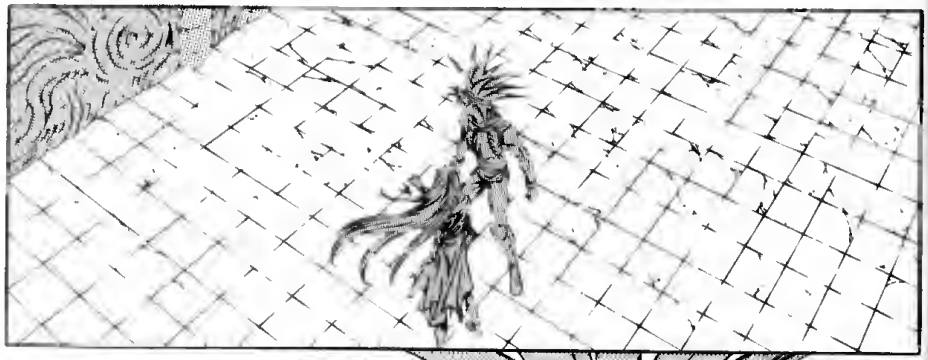

DONG DONG-- S-SHE'S HURT REALLY B-BAD! I-I PROMISED HIM! I PROMISED CHULDO THAT I'D P-PROTECT HER!!
WHAT'S THAT IDIOT BABBLING ABOUT?

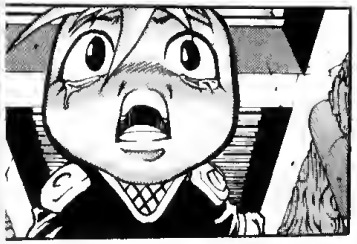
IT... IS TOO LATE.
THE CHILD... SHE BREATHES NO MORE.
NO...DONG DONG...
SHE'S...DEAD...?

L-LOOK... AFTER H-HER, FAT NINJA! PLEASE... P-PROTECT HER...
P-PLEASE... S-SAVE HER!
BUT...YOU CAN'T DIE...
I...I P-PROMISED! I PROMISED CHULDO THAT I'D PROTECT YOU!

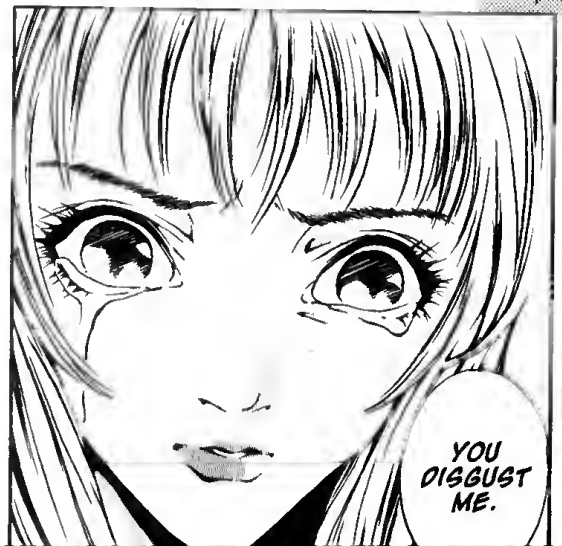

PROTECT HER...
PROTECT ME...
DONG DONG...
DONG DONG!! OPEN YOUR EYES!! PLEASE!!

AND HERE I AM WITHOUT A HANKY. WHAT A LOSER! IT'S NOT LIKE YOUR TEARS WILL MAGICALLY BRING HER BACK!
I SAY WE LEAVE THE LITTLEST CADAVER HERE AND CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR A WAY OUT.
YOU HEARTLESS BASTARD!! I'LL KILL YOU!!
OH YEAH?! I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY, LITTLE MA--





PRINCESS ...?

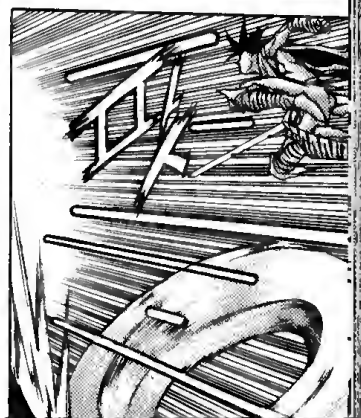

YOU DISGUST ME.

GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!!

NOW WHAT?!
HUFF ...
HUFF ...
HUFF ...

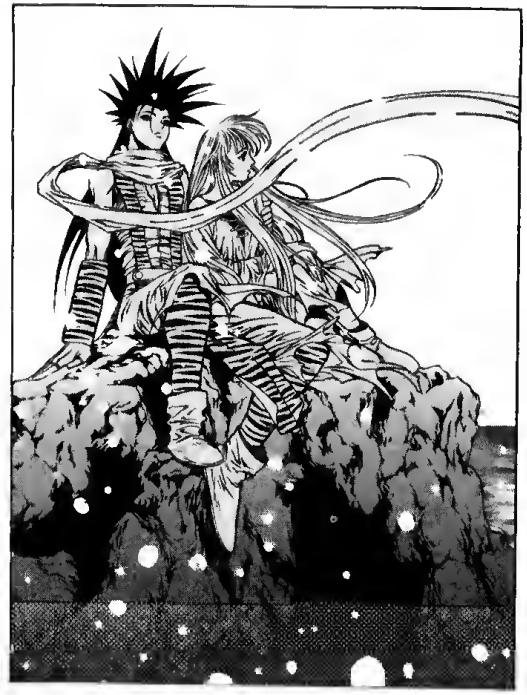
OI OI OI OI!

THEY JUST WON'T LET UP!

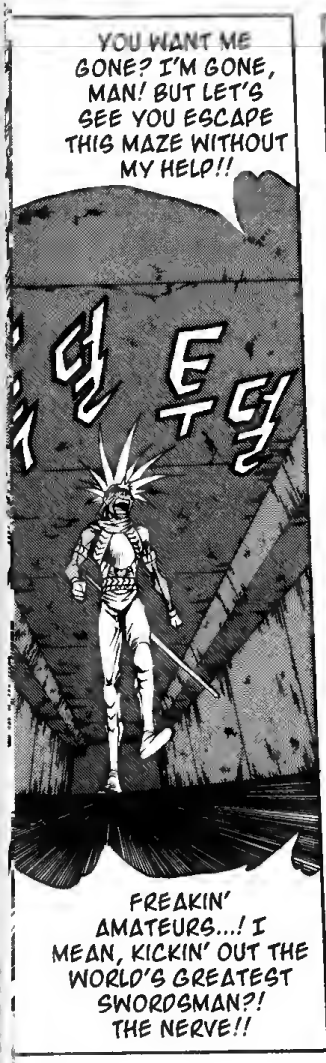

OI

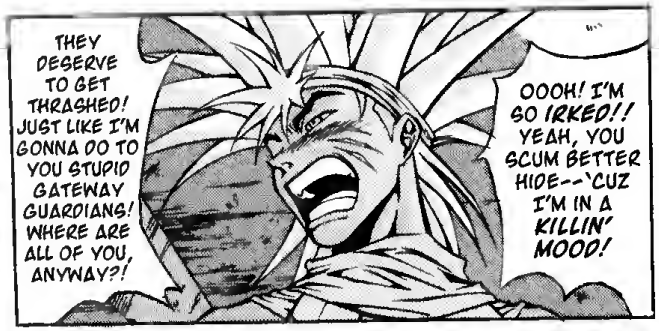
EACH SUCCEEDING GATE IS HARDER THAN THE NEXT.
EVERY GATEWAY I BREAK DOWN...
...HAS ITS OWN LETHAL GUARDIAN!!
IF I MAKE THE SLIGHTEST ERROR-- I'M MAGGOT CHOW!!

BLADE OF HEAVEN

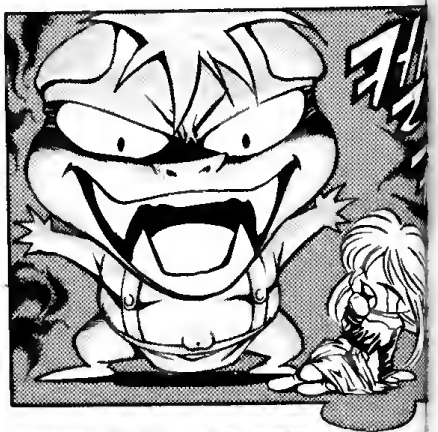


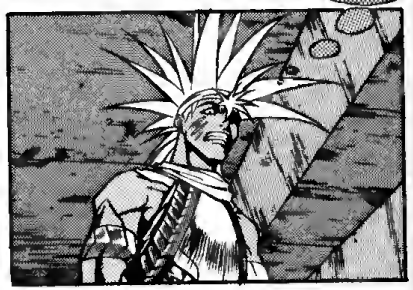
CRAZY BROAD...! SLAPPIN' MY FACE?! HMPH! SHE'S LUCKY I'M A LOVER, NOT A--WAIT...I AM A FIGHTER. WELL, I DON'T FIGHT GIRLS! HMPH!
저벅
저벅


YOU WANT ME GONE? I'M GONE, MAN! BUT LET'S SEE YOU ESCAPE THIS MAZE WITHOUT MY HELP!!
터덜 터덜
FREAKIN' AMATEURS...! I MEAN, KICKIN' OUT THE WORLD'S GREATEST SWORDSMAN?! THE NERVE!!

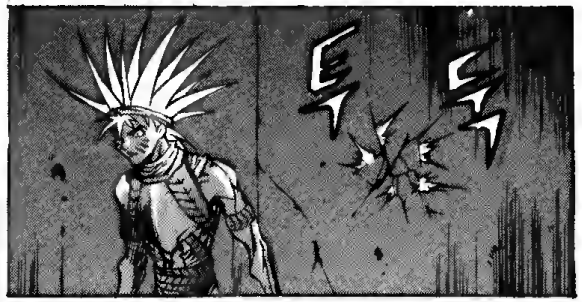

THEY DESERVE TO GET THRASHED! JUST LIKE I'M GONNA DO TO YOU STUPID GATEWAY GUARDIANS! WHERE ARE ALL OF YOU, ANYWAY?!
OOOH! I'M SO IRKED!! YEAH, YOU SCUM BETTER HIDE--'CUZ I'M IN A KILLIN' MOOD!

...!


컹



PFFT! WHAT AM I THINKIN'?! SO WHAT IF SHE'S MAIMED BY SOME SCALY MONSTER?! IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, IS IT?!
헉!
GOOD RIDDANCE, I SAY! MAYBE A LITTLE DISEMBOWELING WILL KNOCK YOU OFF THAT HIGH HORSE OF YOURS, "PRINCESS"!

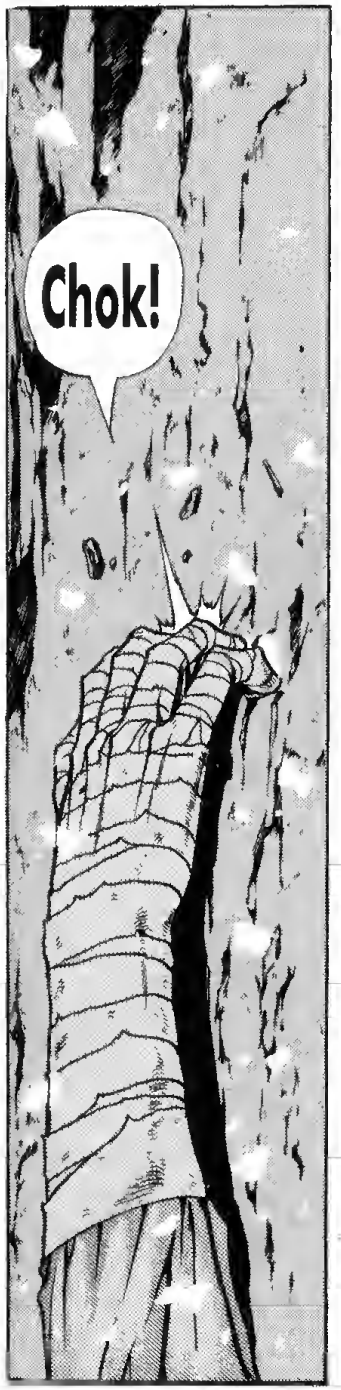

터덜 터덜

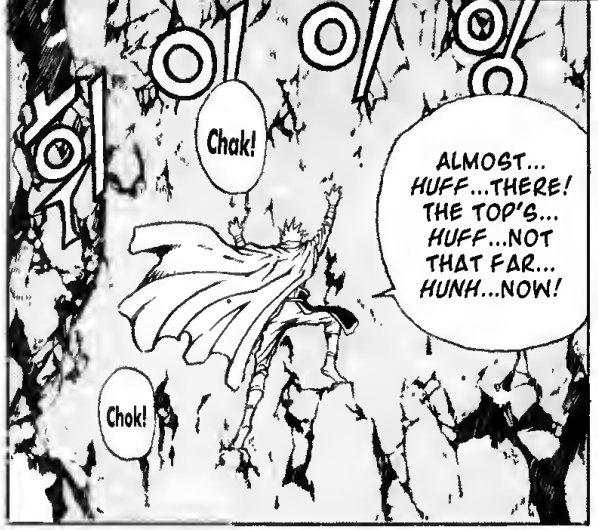
DADDY'S GOT SOME ANGER TO VENT....! HEH HEH....!

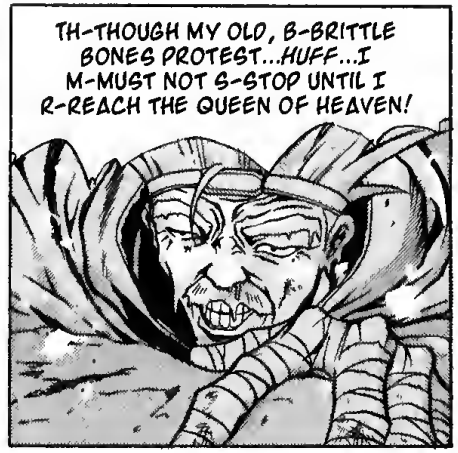
...?
터덜 터덜

THAT'S RIGHT... COME TO PAPA....!
터덜

smack!
SONOFA --!!
WHO THE HELL JUST SIGNED THEIR OWN DEATH WARRANT?! HUH?! SHOW YOURSELF !!
.....!
YOU...IT'S ALWAYS YOU!! YOU'RE A DEMON SENT FROM HELL TO TORMENT ME!!


Chok!


Chak!
Chak!
ALMOST... HUFF...THERE! THE TOP'S... HUFF...NOT THAT FAR... HUNH...NOW!


TH-THOUGH MY OLD, B-BRITTLE BONES PROTEST...HUFF...I M-MUST NOT S-STOP UNTIL I R-REACH THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN!

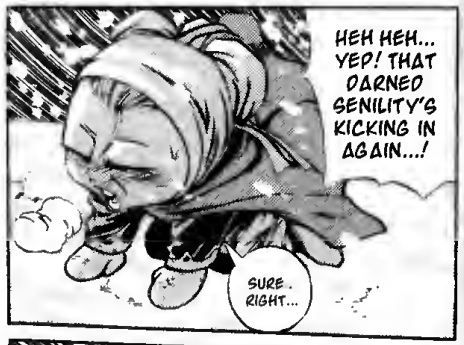
TH-THOUGH IT IS F-FREEZING COLD--THIS T-TOUGH OLD MAN CAN T-TAKE IT!

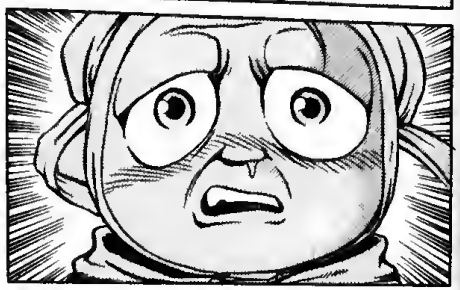
F-FINALLY...!! I'VE R-REACHED THE T-TOP!! I'VE FOUND THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN'S HOME!!

AND NOW, AS I STAND GAZING OUT OVER THE SNOW-FILLED HORIZON, I'M REMINDED OF WHAT MY DEAR OLD DAD ONCE SAI--

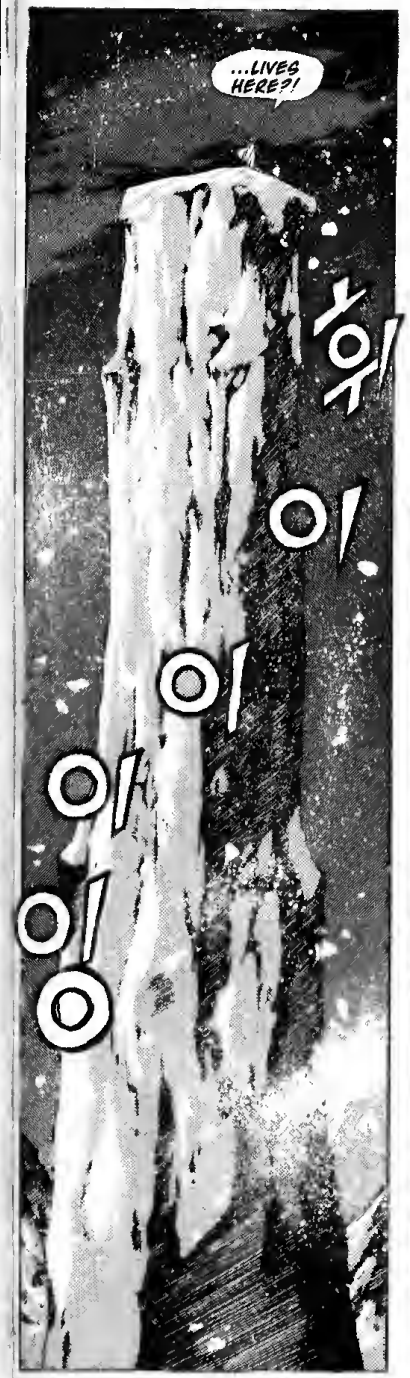
UM, HONEY...? A LITTLE HELP, HERE?!

OOPS! S-SORRY, DEAR! I FORGOT YOU WERE THERE!


HEH HEH... YEP! THAT DARNED SENILITY'S KICKING IN AGAIN...!
SURE. RIGHT...



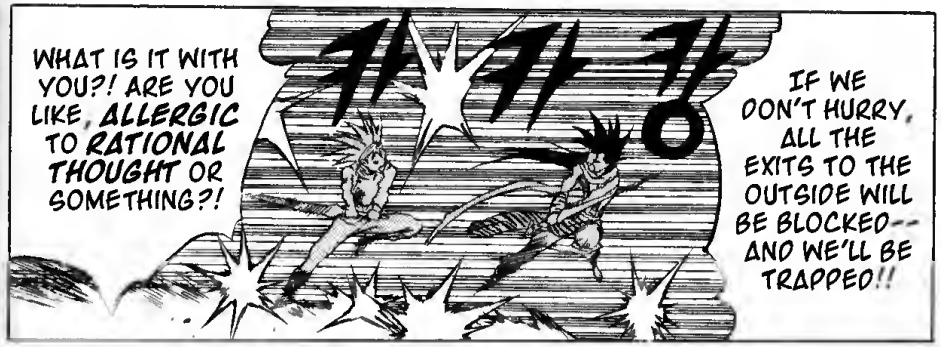
SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT...HER HIGHNESS, THE ALL-POWERFUL, ALL-KNOWING QUEEN OF HEAVEN...

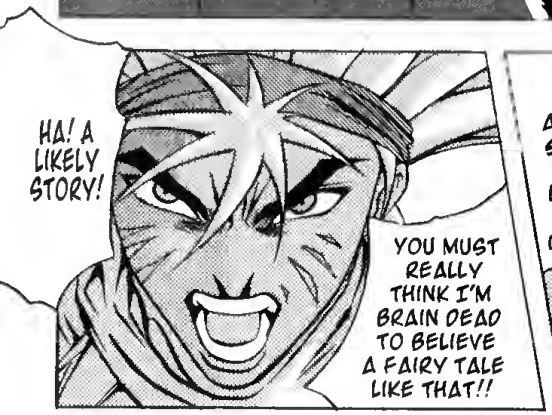

...LIVES HERE?!

YAAAH!! PREPARE TO DIE, LOVERBOY!!

LEAVING SO SOON?! THIS PARTY'S JUST BEGUN!!
LOOKS LIKE YOU PICKED UP SOME NEW TRICKS!
BUT LET'S SEE YOU COUNTER THIS!
MAN...I MUST'VE BEEN A REAL JERK IN A PAST LIFE TO GET KARMA LIKE THIS!!
YOU AGAIN ?!
THAT'S RIGHT-- IT'S ME! THE GUY WHOSE GIRL YOU STOLE!!
TORPEDO ATTACK!!
YOU ASK ME, YOU'VE GOT AN EARLY START ON SCREWIN' UP THE NEXT ONE, YOU COCKY CLOD!!
MORON! BY DELAYING ME, YOU'RE ONLY MAKING IT WORSE FOR YOURSELF!!

OUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET OUT IS IF I DESTROY THE GATEWAY'S NUCLEUS BEFORE THE DOOR CLOSES!!


WHAT IS IT WITH YOU?! ARE YOU LIKE, ALLERGIC TO RATIONAL THOUGHT OR SOMETHING?!
IF WE DON'T HURRY, ALL THE EXITS TO THE OUTSIDE WILL BE BLOCKED-- AND WE'LL BE TRAPPED!!


HA! A LIKELY STORY!
YOU MUST REALLY THINK I'M BRAIN DEAD TO BELIEVE A FAIRY TALE LIKE THAT!!

KAY, YOU'D HAVE TO ACTUALLY GET SMARTER TO REACH THE LEVEL OF "BRAIN DEAD"!

KEEP SPEWING YOUR LIES! IT'S ONLY KINDLING FOR THE FLAMES OF MY RAGE, PRETTY BOY!!

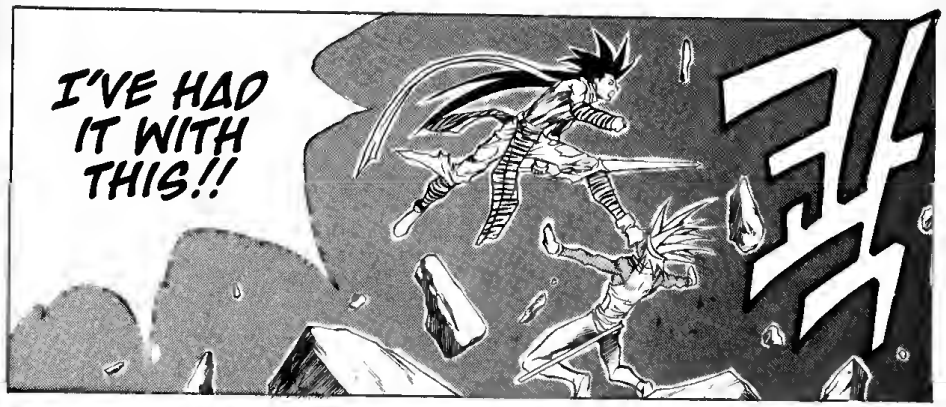
IT MEANS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CROAKIN' LEFT AND RIGHT! SURE, THE PRINCESS WAS ALIVE WHEN I LEFT HER...BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT HORRIBLE BEASTIE IS TRYIN' TO FILLET OUR GIRL AT THIS VERY MOMENT...

WHILE YOU'VE BEEN GALLIVANTING AROUND PLAYING WITH YOUR SPIFFY NEW SWORD, SOME OF US HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR OUR VERY LIVES!!

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!

AROOMEE...

AROOMEE'S IN DANGER ...?
SO YOU WANNA SAVE THE DAMSEL? FIRST YOU GOTTA GET BY ME!
Krack!
BUT IF I TRY TO SAVE AROOMEE NOW, I'LL MISS MY SHOT AT THE NUCLEUS!

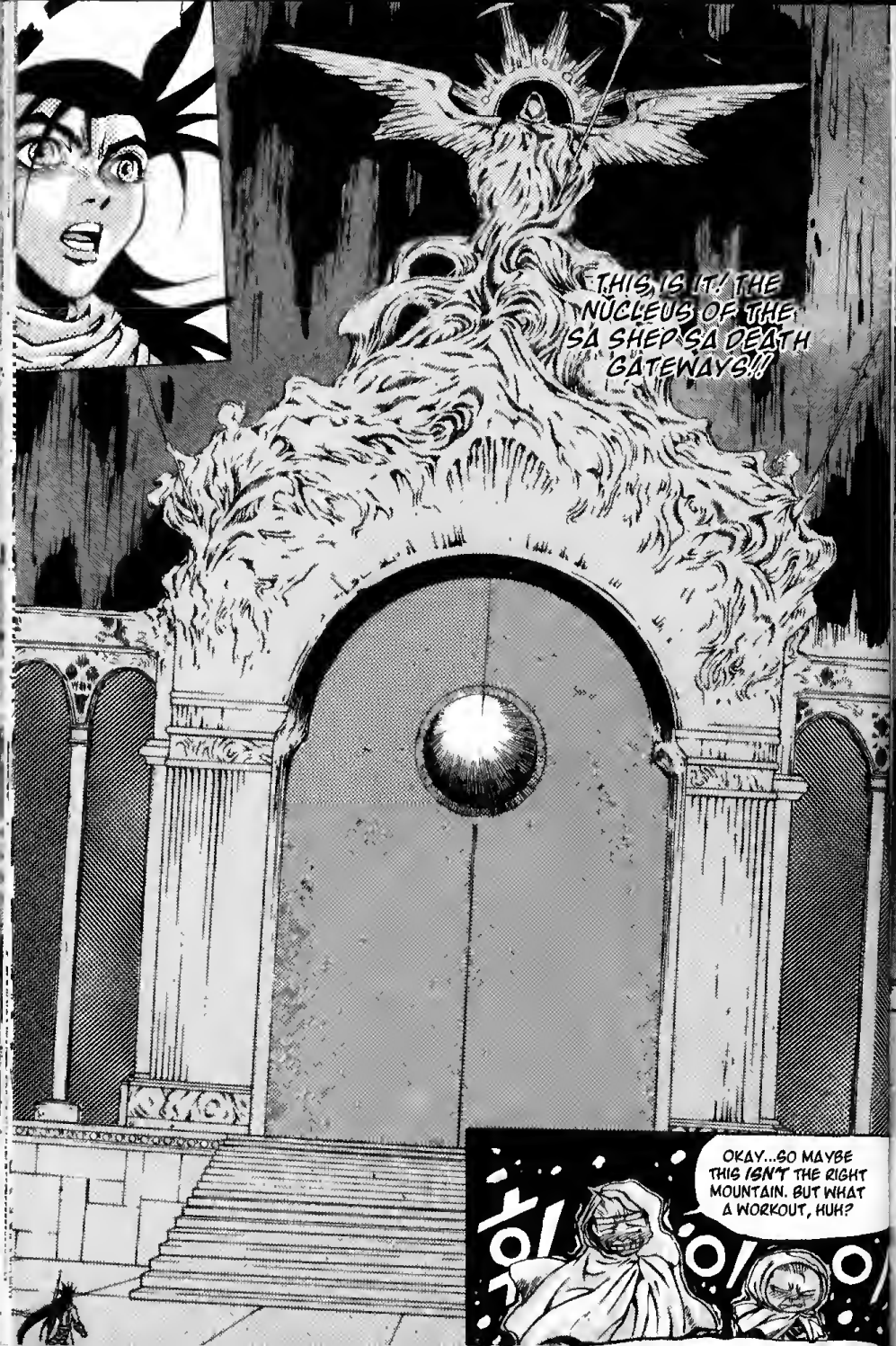

I'VE HAD IT WITH THIS!!
FA

Fwip!
COWARD!! COME BACK AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN!!
AROOMEE... PLEASE BE SAFE...!

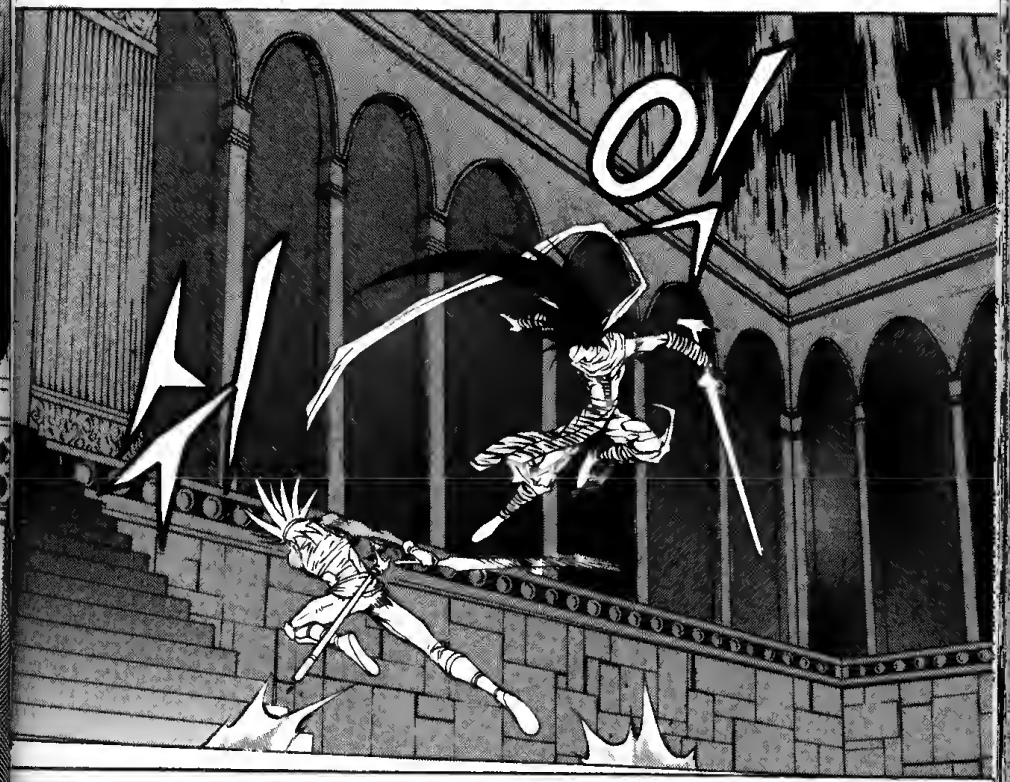
I HAVE TO REACH THE NUCLEUS FOR ANY OF US TO HAVE A CHANCE...!
FA

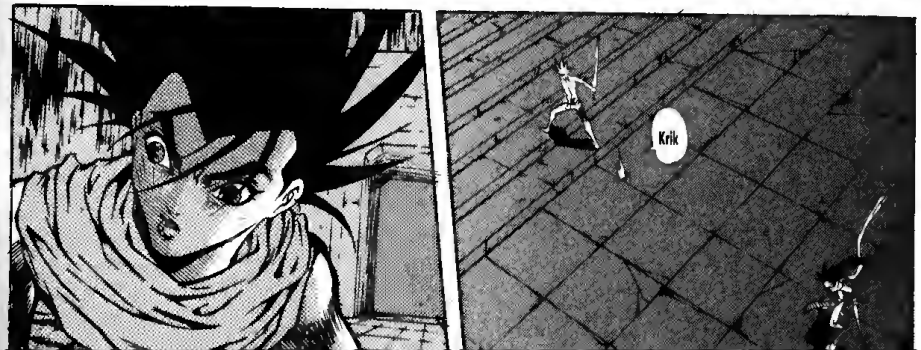
WHAT THE--?! WHAT RE YOU--?!

BOY, THEY SURE DON'T MAKE DASHING HEROES LIKE THEY USED TO! THE WOMAN YOU LOVE IS IN DANGER--BUT YET YOU'RE FOCUSED ONLY ON SAVING YOUR OWN SKIN?!

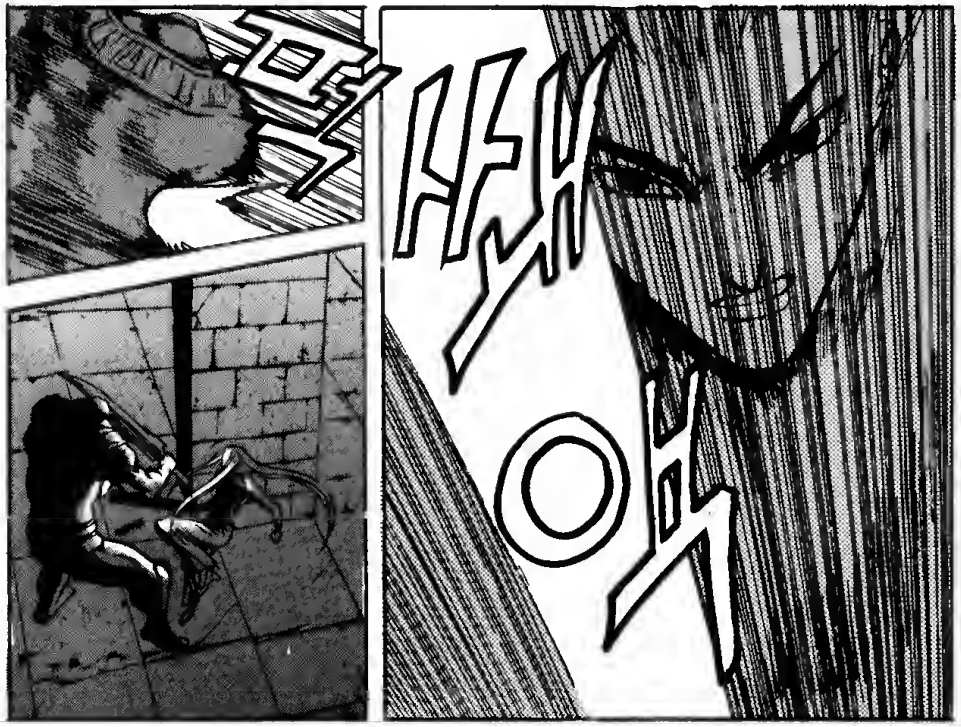

THIS IS IT! THE NUCLEUS OF THE SA'SHEP'SA DEATH GATEWAYS!!
OKAY...SO MAYBE THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT MOUNTAIN. BUT WHAT A WORKOUT, HUH?

I KNOW--YOU GIVE ME THE BLADE, AND I'LL TEAR ONLY ONE OF YOUR ARMS OFF! FAIR TRADE, EH?!

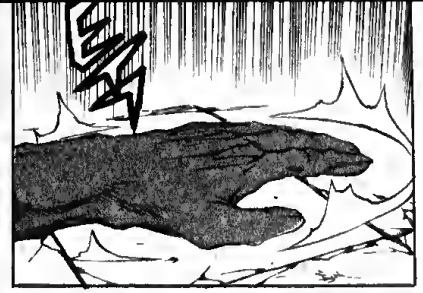


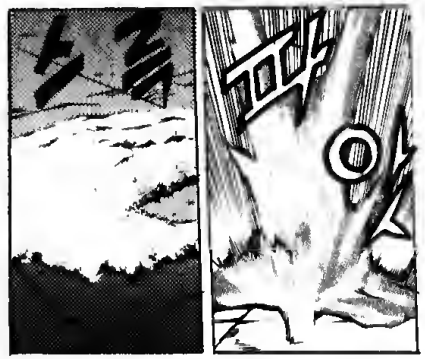

Krik

WHAT'S THAT?! TOAD STYLE?! STOP HOPPIN' AROUND AND FIGHT ME LIKE A MAN!!
STAND ASIDE-- OR ELSE!!
WHAT IS HE ABOUT TO...?!
DIVINE GRACE ENERGY SWORD!!


HEH
OH

OH

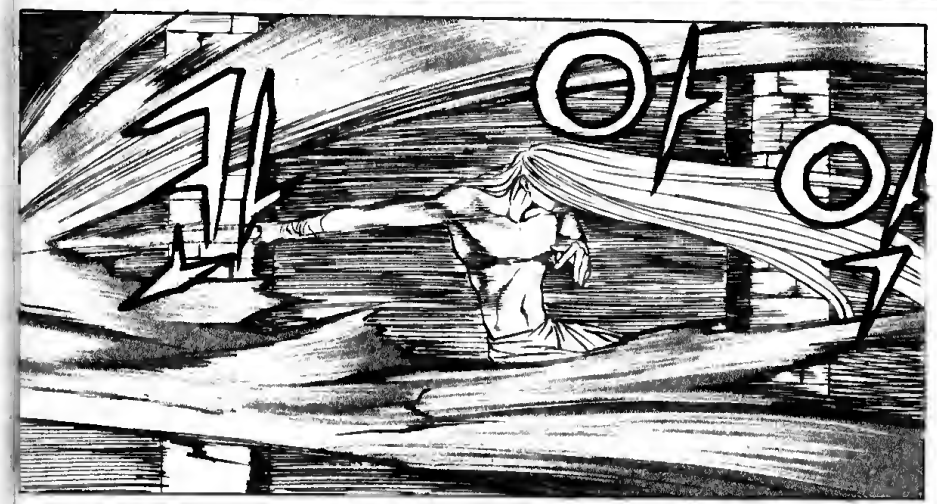

EH

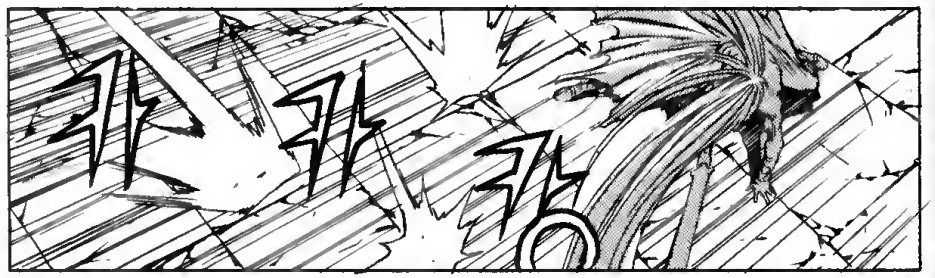

HEH
TOK
OH

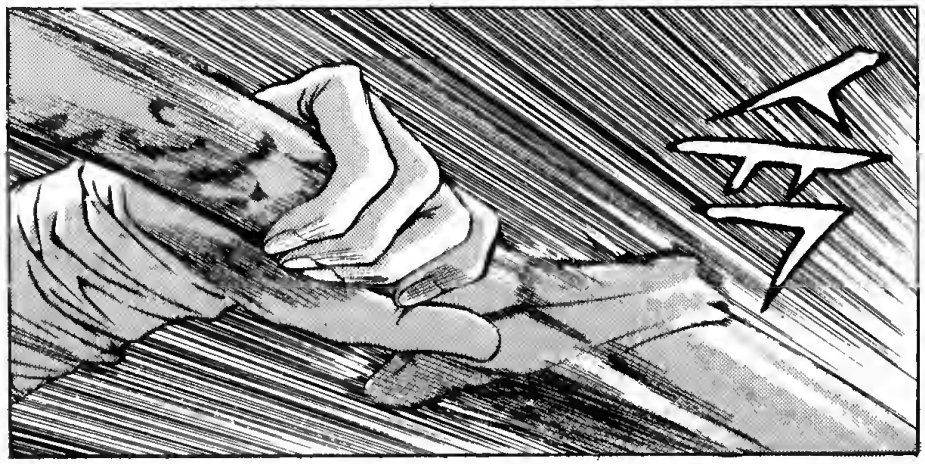
OH

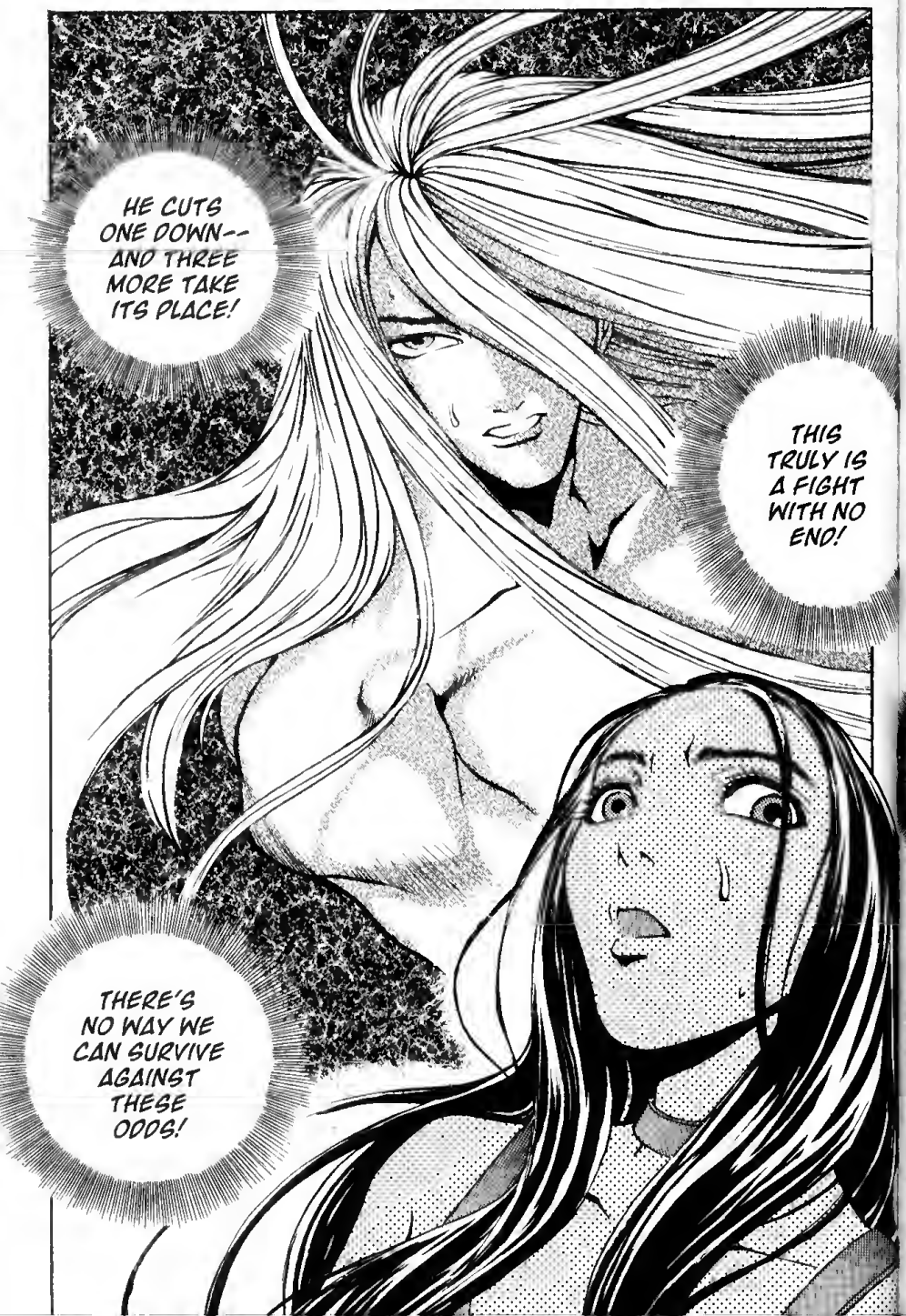
BEHIND YOU!!

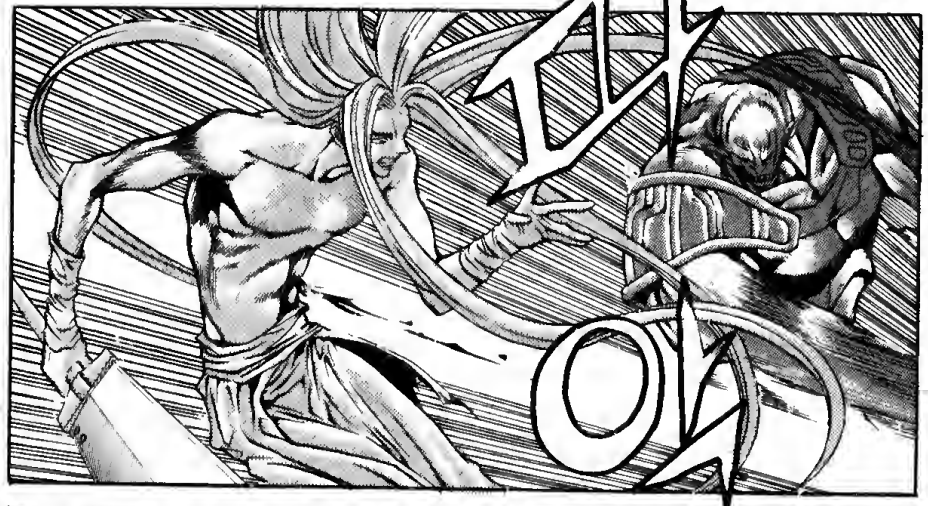
EH






ドス


HE CUTS ONE DOWN-- AND THREE MORE TAKE ITS PLACE!
THIS TRULY IS A FIGHT WITH NO END!
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN SURVIVE AGAINST THESE ODDS!


IT

OUR ONLY CHANCE...

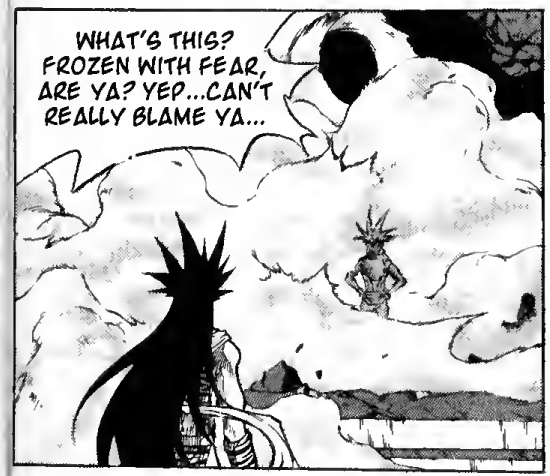
...MAY BE HIS DEMON ALTER EGO!

틱
...!!
쩌 적
쾅!
콰 콰 콰
콰 콰 콰

스 스 스 스

타

IDIOT! DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D FALL FOR THAT CRAP AGAIN?!


WHAT'S THIS? FROZEN WITH FEAR, ARE YA? YEP...CAN'T REALLY BLAME YA...

WHAT THE...?!

WHAT'S WITH THE TOUGH GUY LOOK?! ARE YOU MOCKING ME?!
FREAKIN' PUNK! THE SNAP YOU JUST HEARD? THAT WAS MY LAST NERVE!!
CONGRATULATIONS. YOU HAVE REACHED THE LAST SA SHEP SA DEATH GATEWAY.
HUH? WHO'S THERE? WHO SAID THAT?! SHOW YOURSELF!!
WE ARE THE ARMORED CHUB HYAR PACK. WE ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE FINAL GATEWAY.
THE PICTURE ON THE WALL...IS TALKING?!

BE NOT ALARMED BY THE SORCERY THAT SPAWNED US.
WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, DIVINE GRACE!
THRICE ARE OUR REASONS FOR EXISTING.
FIRST-- TO STOP ALL INTRUDERS.
SECOND-- TO KILL ALL WHO HAVE ENTERED.
AND THIRD...

...TO TEST YOU--THE HEART SWORD'S DIVINE GRACE!
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

WHAT IS WITH YOU PEOPLE?! THERE'RE TWO THINGS YOU SHOULD NEVER DO IN LIFE! ONE IS WALKING BAREFOOT IN A COW PASTURE ...
...AND THE OTHER IS INTERRUPTING ME MID-KILLING SPREE!!
HIS WEAPON... IT'S INVISIBLE!

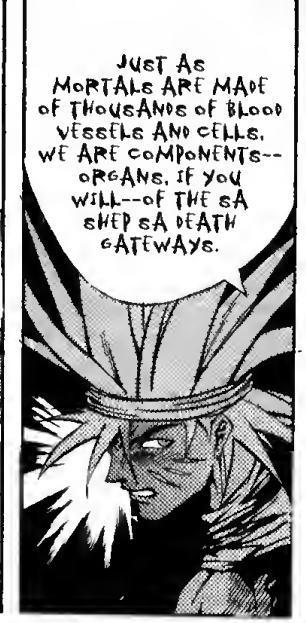
B-BETTER SCRATCH LEADING AND SH-SHOUTING OFF THE OL' ATTACK LIST...
Krik!
W-WHAT?! M-MY ARMOR! MY B-BEAUTIFUL, AB-ENHANCING ARMOR!!
IT IS YOU THAT IS THE INTERLOPER, LOUD ONE.

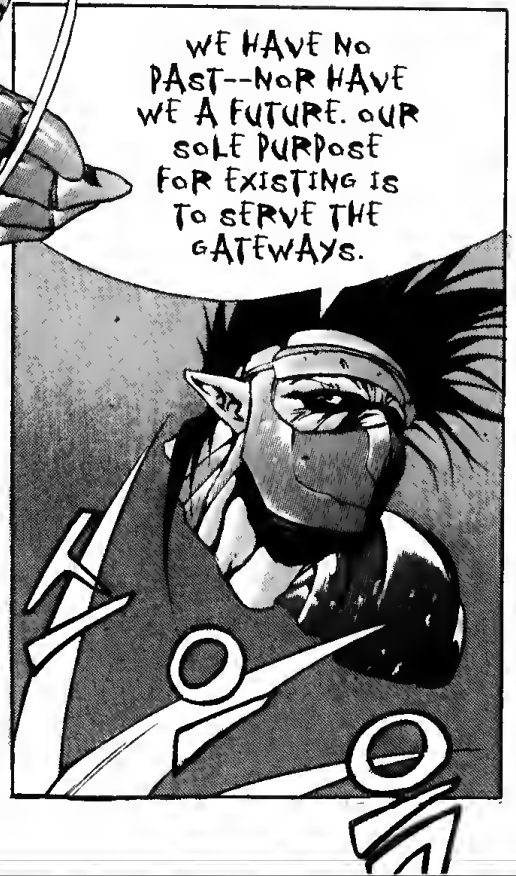
HUH?! HE HAS MY SWORD?!
AND HE JUST PUSHED ME ASIDE LIKE I WAS NOTHING!
FIRST MY ARMOR-- AND NOW MY SWORD! THIS GUY IS JUST BEGGIN' FOR A BRUISIN'!

O-KAAAY...IF YOU WERE TRYIN' TO GET ME TO CRAP MY PANTS--MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

WAIT...I KNOW WHO YOU GUYS ARE! YOU'RE CHULLYN HERMITS, AREN'T YOU?! KNIGHTS WORLD-RENOWNED FOR THEIR GRACEFUL, YET POWERFUL FIGHTING STYLE!!
CORRECT. THE TECHNIQUE YOU JUST SAMPLED HARNESSES OUR OPPONENT'S ENERGY AND USES IT TO LAUNCH OUR BUDDHA'S GREAT MERCY AND COMPASSION TECHNIQUE.

BUT...THAT CAN'T BE! HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO USE THE EASTERN RACE'S SECRET TECHNIQUE?!
WHO ARE YOU REALLY?!


JUST AS MORTALS ARE MADE OF THOUSANDS OF BLOOD VESSELS AND CELLS, WE ARE COMPONENTS--ORGANS, IF YOU WILL--OF THE SA SHEP SA DEATH GATEWAYS.


WE HAVE NO PAST--NOR HAVE WE A FUTURE. OUR SOLE PURPOSE FOR EXISTING IS TO SERVE THE GATEWAYS.

I...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THIS GATEWAY... THIS CASTLE... IS ALIVE!
WELL? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, DIVINE GRACE?
SOON, ALL THE EXITS WILL BE BLOCKED. ANY SOUL STILL INSIDE WILL BE FOREVER SEALED IN THE DUNGEONS.
THEN... SOMA WAS TELLING THE TRUTH?!
I...I ONLY HAVE ONE QUESTION...

WHY? WHY WAS I CHOSEN?
AND BY WHO? OKAY, THAT WAS TWO QUESTIONS... BUT YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
JUST WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!
WE ARE MERELY HUMBLE SERVANTS. WE CANNOT ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.
HOWEVER... THE FACT THAT YOU USED THE HEART SWORD TO ARRIVE AT THIS PLACE MEANS THAT YOU HAVE MET HIM.
HIM? HIM WHO?

IF YOUR HEART IS STRONG ENOUGH, THE HEART SWORD WILL GUIDE YOU!
ONCE YOU SAFELY EXIT THE GATEWAYS, YOU WILL BECOME A WORTHY WIELDER OF THE HEART SWORD!
THERE IS NO TIME. SOON WE WILL ALL BE DEAD.
LONG HAVE WE AWAITED YOUR ARRIVAL IN THE DARK BOWELS OF TIME. NOW-- STAND BEFORE US AND BE TESTED!
콰 콰 콰
쉬 쉬 쉬!

PFFT! HE CALLS THAT A BATTLE CHARGE?! HA! I'VE SEEN FASTER SNAILS!
SOME BIG, BAD GUARDIAN! IF BEATING HIM'S ALL HE HAS TO DO TO PASS THE TEST, THEN IT'S IN THE--
--BAG...?

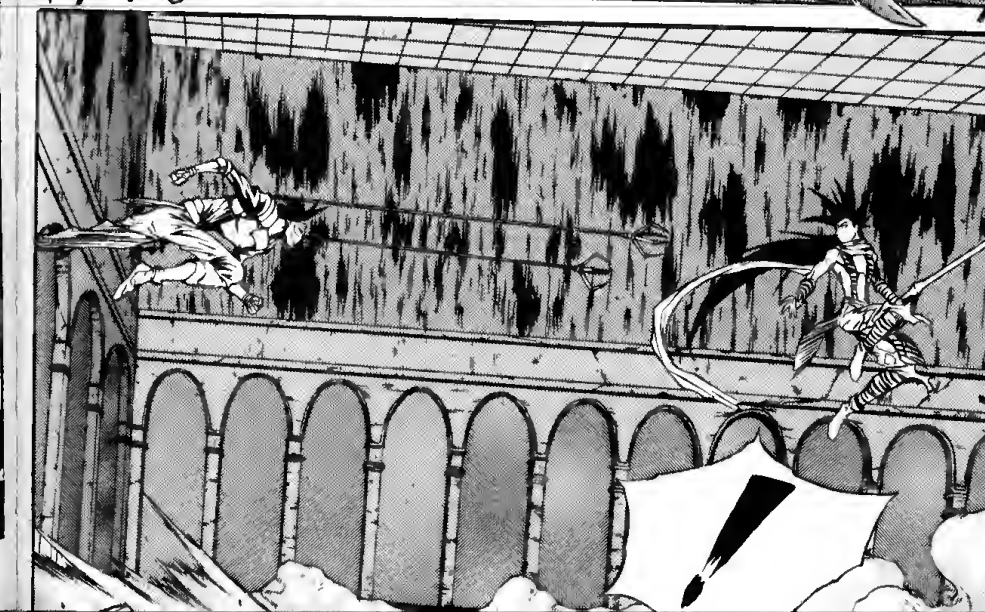
HOLY--!! HE'S SO FAST, ONLY HIS FIRST AND LAST MOVEMENTS ARE VISIBLE!! IT'S AS IF HE TELEPORTED FROM ONE SPOT TO THE NEXT!!
HE DISAPPEARED !!
HE'S USING THE EASTERN RACE'S SECRET TELEPORTATION TECHNIQUE!
WHAT THE--?! NOW HE'S BEHIND ME?!

HE...HE'S SO STRONG! I CAN'T EVEN SENSE HIS PRESENCE!!
PAY ATTENTION, DUMMY! HE'S IN FRONT OF YOU!!

LOOK OUT!! HE'S USING THE TORPEDO CLAN'S TORPEDO DEMON ATTACK-- WHICH MEANS HE CAN CHANGE INTO THIRTY-SIX DIFFERENT FORMS OF THUNDER!!

I STILL CAN'T GET OVER THE SHEER NERVE OF THIS CREEP USING MY CLAN'S LOST FIGHTING TECHNIQUE!!

HANG RYONG SA JO CHANG!!



KEEP YER MEAT HOOKS TO YOURSELF, PAL!
LET...G-GO... OF MY... S-SWORD...!
DAMN! I CAN'T LAND ON THE GROUND!! I CAN'T GET MY FOOTING!!
HUURRK...!
UNBELIEV-ABLE!! I'M WITNESSING MY CLAN'S HANG RYONG SHIN CHANG TECHNIQUE!
UNNNH!!
AND WORST OF ALL--IT'S BEING USED BY AN OUTSIDER!

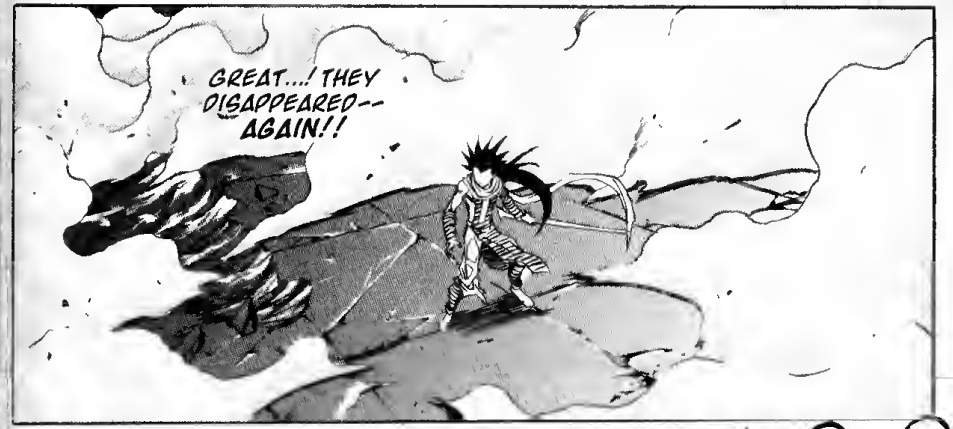
DIVINE GRACE! WE WILL SEIZE CONTROL OF YOUR ENERGY!!
HANG RYONG SHIN CHANG GO!!
LESSON ONE-- ONLY ONE WORTHY OF ITS POWER SHALL DEFEAT US! IF YOU ARE NOT CAREFUL, YOU WILL NOT ONLY LOSE THIS BATTLE-- BUT YOUR LIFE!
PAL, THE ONLY THING I'M LOSING AT THE MOMENT...
...IS MY PATIENCE!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES...
...WITH SECRET FIGHTING TECHNIQUES!!
YOU'LL PAY FOR UNDER-ESTIMATING ME!!

ALL I WANTED WAS TO GET MY FRIENDS OUT OF HERE! BUT NOOO! YOU PAINS IN MY BUTT JUST HAD TO GET IN MY WAY!
WELL, YOU SHOULDN'T START ANYTHING YOU CAN'T FINISH!!

I DON'T BACK DOWN FROM FIGHTS--NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON OR WHO THE OPPONENT!!
HE'S USING THE BLADE'S LION ENERGY!
Shmp!
IMPRESSIVE. YOU ARE INDEED A MOST WORTHY OPPONENT!

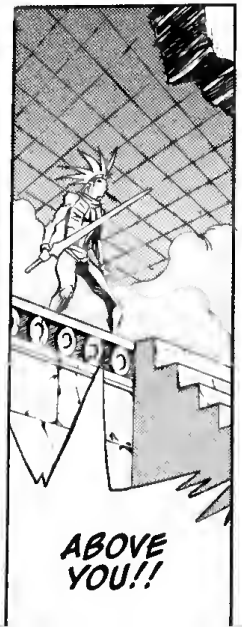
THE STRONGER OUR OPPONENT, THE MORE ENJOYABLE THE BATTLE!

INDEED...
YOU THINK THIS IS A GAME?! THE LIVES OF MY FRIENDS ARE AT STAKE HERE!!
NO! NOT AGAIN!


GREAT...! THEY DISAPPEARED-- AGAIN!!

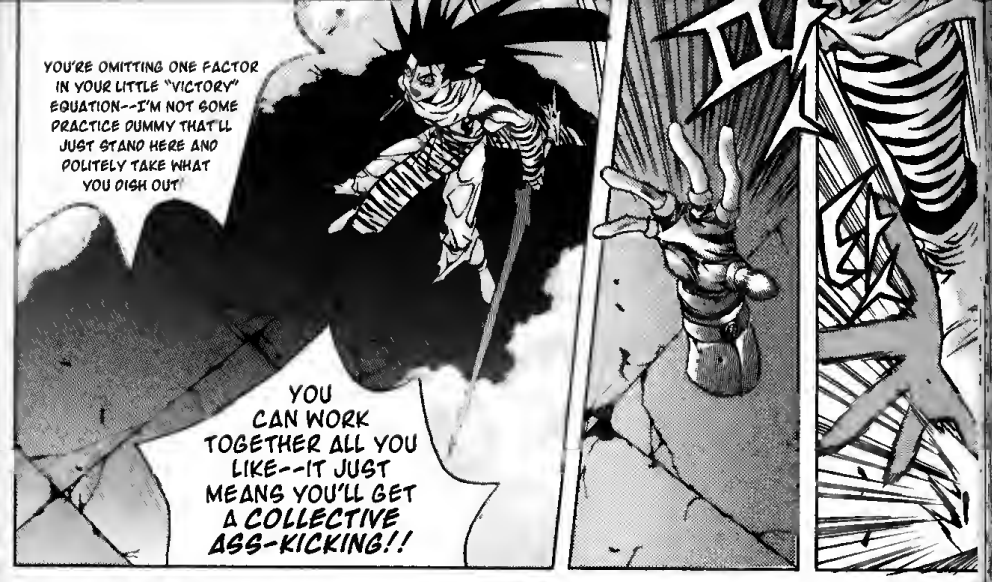
WHERE DID THEY GO...?!

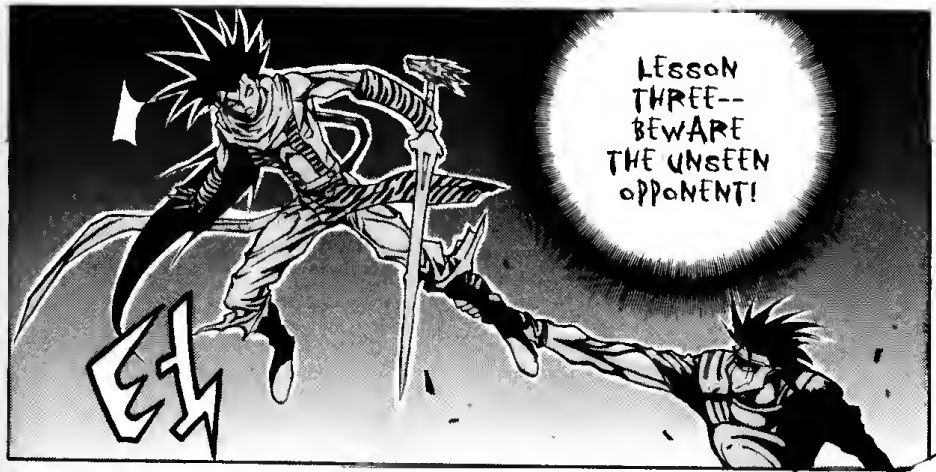
COWARDS! IF YOU WANNA FIGHT SO BADLY, THEN QUIT HIDING!


ABOVE YOU!!

LESSON TWO-- MASTERS THAT HAVE REACHED THE ZENITH OF THEIR ABILITIES CAN COMMUNICATE SILENTLY WITHIN SERENITY.

WHEN ATTACKING OPPONENTS, BOTH THE HEART AND THE BRAIN MUST WORK TOGETHER AS ONE.
WHEN WE ATTACK IN UNISON, NOTHING CAN STOP US!


YOU'RE OMITTING ONE FACTOR IN YOUR LITTLE "VICTORY" EQUATION--I'M NOT SOME PRACTICE DUMMY THAT'LL JUST STAND HERE AND POLITELY TAKE WHAT YOU DISH OUT!
YOU CAN WORK TOGETHER ALL YOU LIKE--IT JUST MEANS YOU'LL GET A COLLECTIVE ASS-KICKING!!


LESSON THREE-- BEWARE THE UNSEEN OPPONENT!

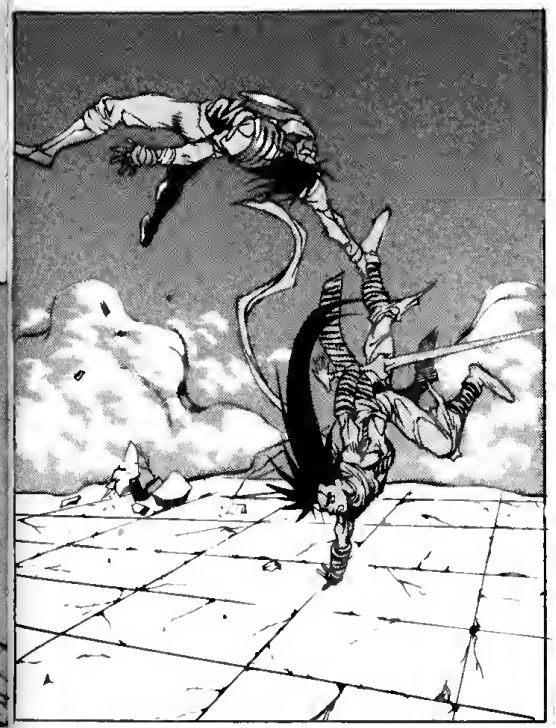
IN A BATTLE TO THE DEATH, IDLE THREATS WASTE PRECIOUS OXYGEN!

LOOK WHO'S TALKIN', BIG MOUTH!

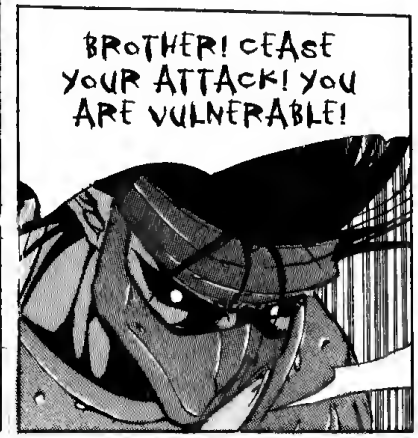
BLADE OF HEAVEN

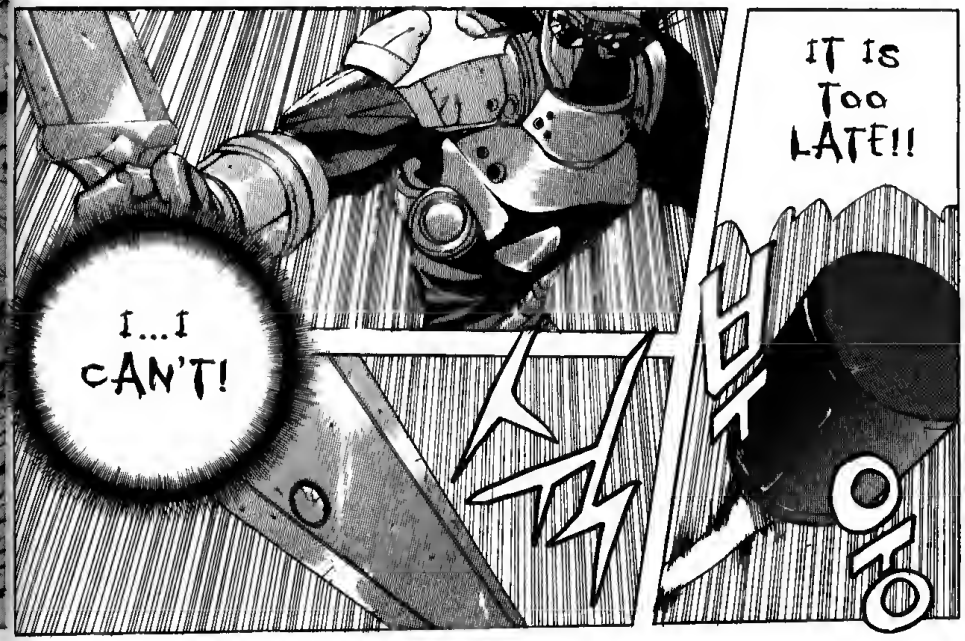
WAIT...IF THAT IDIOT DIES, THEN THE BLADE WILL AUTOMATICALLY COME TO ME...
HOWEVER... EVEN IF I DO OBTAIN THE BLADE, ALL THE EXITS OUT OF THIS PLACE WILL BE CLOSED. DAMN... I KNEW I SHOULD'VE STAYED IN BED TODAY.
HA
OH
WELL, IT'S BAD ENOUGH TO BE STUCK DOWN HERE FOR ALL ETERNITY...
...BUT TO DO IT WITH THAT TOOL WITH A BAD HAIR DAY... THAT WOULD BE UNBEARABLE!
OF
EEEP!
Slip
OH
OH
OH

AH
LOOK OUT



WHOA! SOMA USED THAT CREEP'S OWN POWER AGAINST HIM! HE CHANGED HIS DIRECTION MID-STRIDE!


BROTHER! CEASE YOUR ATTACK! YOU ARE VULNERABLE!


I...I CAN'T!
IT IS TOO LATE!!
BUT

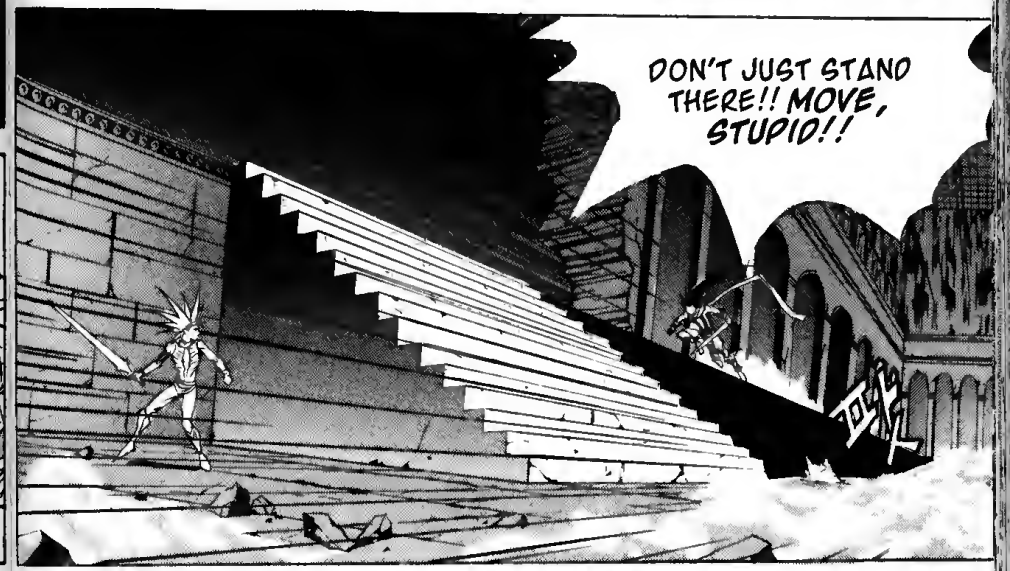
INVINCIBLE DESTRUCTION BLOW!!
Y-YOU... YOU THINK... A PATHETIC MANEUVER LIKE THIS...C-CAN STOP US?!
BUT DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE UP THERE-- 'CUZ THAT WAS JUST THE DRY RUN!
WELL, I'D SAY YOU'RE PRETTY INERT RIGHT NOW, BIG BOY.

BLADE OF HEAVEN LION ENERGY!!
HERE COMES FRIC AND FRAC, RIGHT ON CUE...!

THATTA BOY!
YOU GIVE 'EM HELL, SOMA!!

WHAT AM I SAYING?! THIS "RAH, RAH" SOMA CRAP MUST BE CONTAGIOUS!
?

GOOD GRIEF! HE'S STILL ALIVE?! NO ONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THAT ATTACK! IS HIS HIDE MADE OF GRANITE OR WHAT?!


DON'T JUST STAND THERE!! MOVE, STUPID!!

WHY, YOU ROTTEN BASTARD...! YOU'RE TRYING TO SNEAK ATTACK ME AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?!
THIS ENDS NOW!! DIVINE GRACE SWORD !!
MOMMY...!

Clang!
I MAY NOT HAVE THE ABILITY TO GO "POOF" LIKE YOU JERKS...

I'D SAY YOU WERE DRIVING ME UP THE WALL...BUT THAT'S A LITTLE TOO OBVIOUS, DON'T YOU THINK?!
HOW THE HELL IS HE...?!
...BUT I MAKE UP FOR IT WITH RAW DETERMINATION... AND A VERY STRONG PAIR OF LEGS!

아
아
하

A FIERY ANGER... A DEMONIC IMPULSE... THAT I CANNOT SUPPRESS!
I FEEL IT... CONSUMING MY INNARDS LIKE A MURDEROUS CANCER...
THE EVIL THAT DWELLS INSIDE IS CLAWING ITS WAY OUT!!

I CAN SENSE... I CAN FEEL... HIS PRESENCE! THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF DESTRUCTION AND CARNAGE!

WH-WHO ARE YOU...?!
TREMBLE NOT, WOMAN. I AM HERE SOLELY TO CARRY OUT THE BIDDING OF MASTER MACHUNROO--AND THAT IS TO ESCORT THE YOUNG MASTER BACK TO WHERE HE BELONGS.
FOR IF HE CONTINUES IN HIS CURRENT STATE, HE WILL BE COMPLETELY DEVOURED BY THE DEVIL INSIDE HIM!
EVERY TIME HE BECOMES THE KWANGMA DEVIL, HE TAKES ONE STEP TOWARDS AN ETERNITY AS A DEMON. THE NEXT TRANS-FORMATION--
--MAY FINALLY PUSH HIM INTO THE Abyss OF INSANITY. SUCH IS THE NATURE OF THE CURSE--THE TERROR--OF THE KWANGMA DEVIL'S ANCESTRY!

YOUNG MASTER! NO!!
HIS EYES... THEY'VE CHANGED!
NO!! IT'S HAPPENED!! HE'S TRANSFORMED INTO THAT MONSTER!!

BLADE OF HEAVEN
Prologue: The Tale of King Pochun
Breaking through the Sa Mang Sa Gateways

The origin or location of the Eastern Race (also known as Myth's Beginning and the Continental End) is a mystery as immense and vast as time itself. It is said that on a long forgotten continent, when the winds of anarchy rise, the lost myth will be born. This special boy will became a savior to us all. His will be the last entry in the Legendary Hero Records. In the meantime, I will expectantly await his arrival...
Legendary Hero Records
Chapter One, Verse One

HURRY UP! IF WE DON'T GET A MOVE ON, WE'LL MISS IT!!
DARLING...! W-WAIT...!
탁
탁
I-I CAN'T... HUFF...D-DO IT...! YOU... GASP...GO ON AHEAD...! THE BABY... I C-CAN'T...
THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR JUNIOR TO SEE ALL THE BEST WARRIORS OF OUR EASTERN RACE!
ARE YOU DAFT, WOMAN?! I CAN'T GO WITHOUT JUNIOR!! DON'T YOU REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT PRENATAL CARE IS?!

THOUGH I MAY HAVE BEEN AN UNSUCCESSFUL WARRIOR AND A SOCIAL LEPER--I VOW THAT MY SON KAY WILL BE A GREAT WARRIOR AND GET INVITED TO PARTIES! YOU'LL SEE!!
NOT AGAIN
HONEY BEAR, YOU ARE NOT A SOCIAL LEPER.
YOU ARE MY ONE AND ONLY MAGNIFICENT HUSBAND...AND WHEN OUR CHILD IS BORN, HE WILL BE PROUD OF YOU NO MATTER WHAT.
YOU THINK ...?

EH? WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
SIR...!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE STARTING SOON...!!
SIGH... IT'S YOU. UM, I'M KINDA IN THE MIDDLE OF FORGING SOMETHING, SO I REALLY CAN'T SPARE ANY TIM--
FORGE, SMORGE! YOU CAN DO THAT LATER! HOW CAN YOU, THE CREATOR OF THE BLADE OF HEAVEN, NOT BE PRESENT DURING THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLADE TO THE SUCCESSFUL BREAKER OF THE GATEWAY?!
YES...BUT... WELL...AFTER I FINISH MAKING THIS TOOL, I HAVE TO PREPARE DINNER... AND THEN THERE'S LAUNDRY...
EH?
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME! I'LL HANDLE EVERYTHING--AFTER WE GET BACK!!
Chomp

OH MY...! I'VE FORGOTTEN TO FEED YOU ALL TODAY! I'M SO SORRY, MY LOVELIES!
I FEAR I'VE BECOME SENILE IN MY OLD AGE.
LOOK...I'LL FEED THOSE FLEABAGS WHEN WE GET BACK!
OH DEAR...IT APPEARS THE TOURNAMENT HAS ALREADY STARTED.
1,231 WARRIORS FROM 62 CLANS HAVE ENTERED. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THE SA MANG SA GATEWAY'S THRESHOLD HAS BEEN CROSSED.
...AND CHUN OF THE HEAVEN'S ASCENSION CLAN MIGHT HAVE THE BEST CHANCE.
DO YOU THINK THIS IS THE YEAR THAT SOMEONE WILL FINALLY BREAK THROUGH? IT APPEARS THAT TAN OF THE ASTROLABE CLAN...
THAT'S SOMETHING EVEN I CANNOT FORESEE.
THEY ARE THE EASTERN RACE'S BEST WARRIORS. THE ONLY ABSOLUTE IS THAT A BATTLE BETWEEN THOSE TWO WILL BE AS IMPRESSIVE AS IT IS HARD FOUGHT.

THOUGH I CREATED THE SA MANG SA GATEWAYS, EVEN I CANNOT DETERMINE THE MIGHT OF THE TRAPS THAT LIE WITHIN.
I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT AFTER THE TIDE OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION HAS EBBED AND THE SACRIFICES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED, A NEW LEADER WILL BE BORN.
THE GATEWAY HAS BEEN ACTIVATED!!
LOOK OUT!! IT'S A TRAP!!

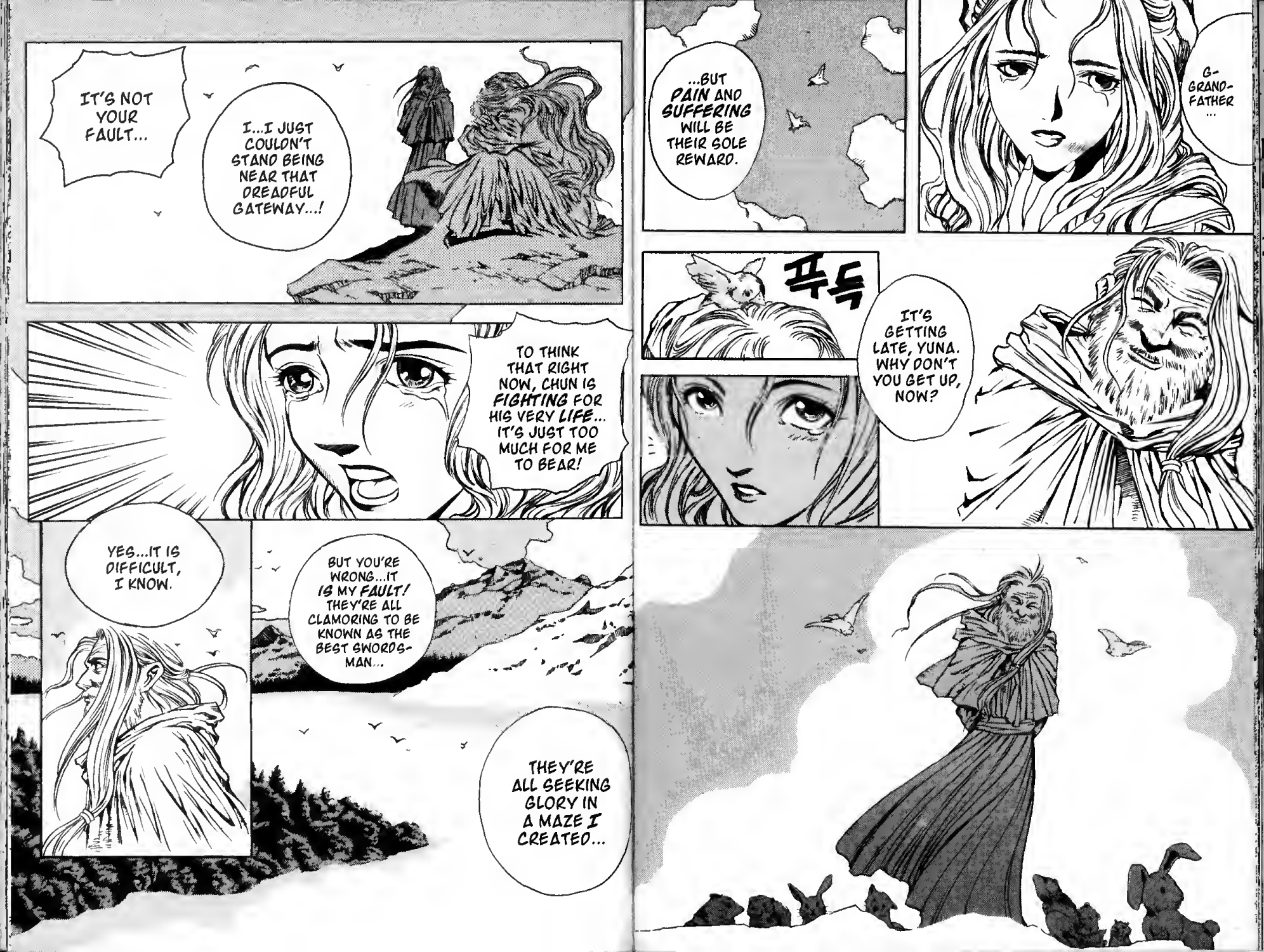
I'VE GOT IT!!
HUFF!
HUFF!
E-EVERYONE... HURK...G-GET... B-BACK!!
HEAVENS ASCENSION!!
TH-THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY LIFE! I WON'T FORGET THIS DEBT! I AM FROM THE GOD'S PULSE CLAN! MY NAME IS--

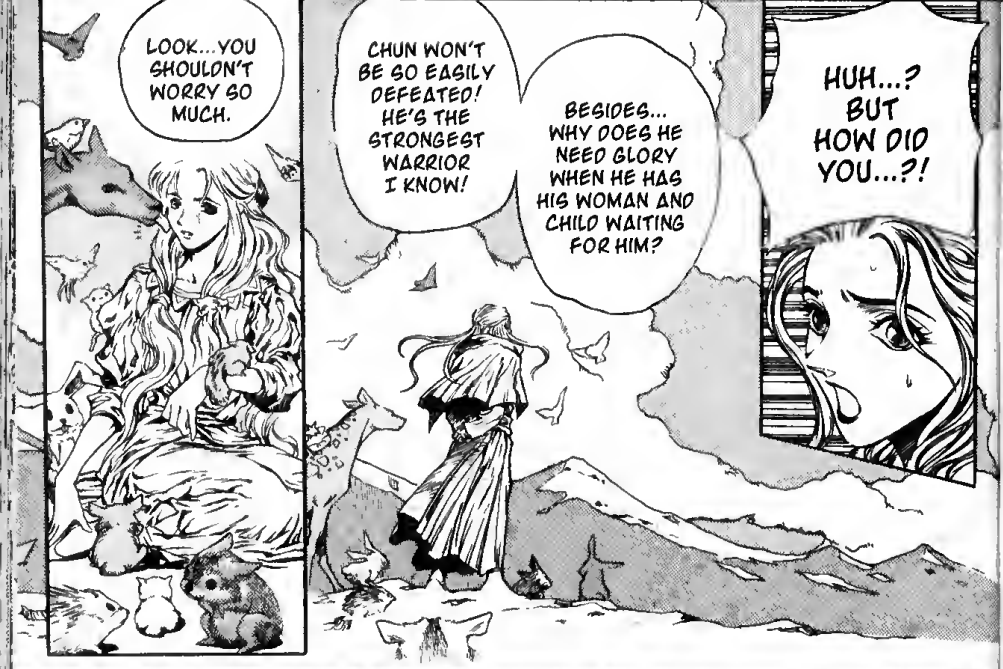
ETO
NO...! HE TRIGGERED ANOTHER TRAP!!
HE...HE'S...!!

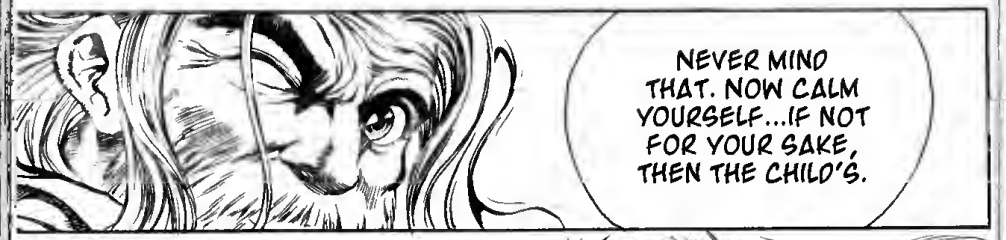
OH, HELL.
DEATH...I'M SURROUNDED BY DEATH...
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY WARRANT SUCH NEEDLESS SLAUGHTER?
HOW MANY MORE PEOPLE MUST DIE TO SERVICE THE WHIM OF AN ARCHAIC CUSTOM...?!

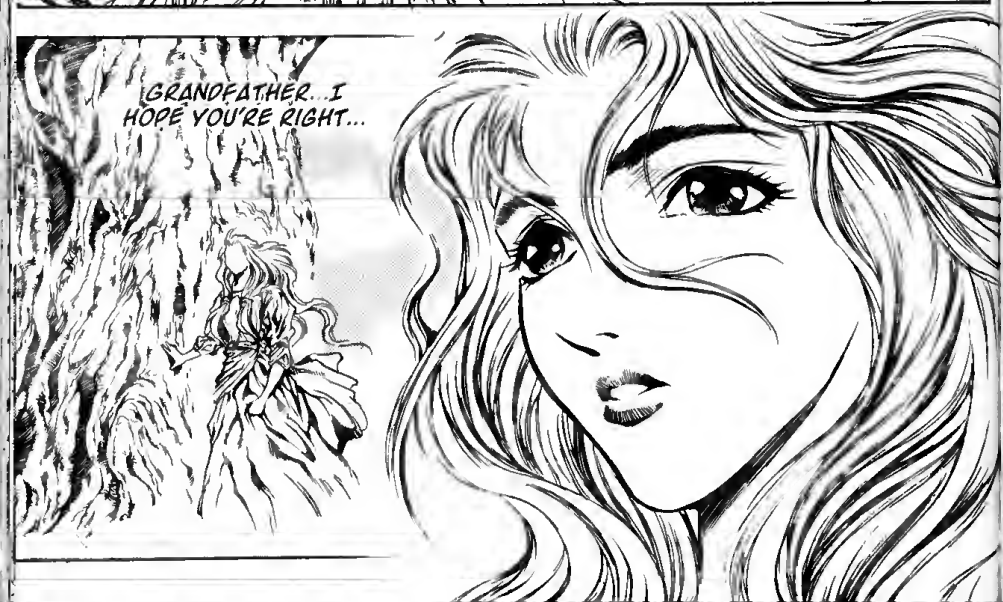
BLADE OF HEAVEN

CHUN...
PLEASE... YOU MUSTN'T...
Blub
AI EE!!
GRAND-FATHER...? BUT WHY ARE YOU HERE ...?
YUNA, WAIT! IT'S ME! IT'S OOSA!
OH, I WAS MERELY TAKING A BATH! SEE, IF I WEAR MY CLOTHES WHILE I BATHE, I CAN KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!
YOU LOOKED SO SAD, SITTING THERE BY YOURSELF...SO I CAME TO CHEER YOU UP. BUT I GUESS I'M DOING A SHODDY JOB OF IT.


IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT...
I...I JUST COULDN'T STAND BEING NEAR THAT DREADFUL GATEWAY...!
TO THINK THAT RIGHT NOW, CHUN IS FIGHTING FOR HIS VERY LIFE... IT'S JUST TOO MUCH FOR ME TO BEAR!
YES...IT IS DIFFICULT, I KNOW.
BUT YOU'RE WRONG...IT IS MY FAULT! THEY'RE ALL CLAMORING TO BE KNOWN AS THE BEST SWORDSMAN...
THEY'RE ALL SEEKING GLORY IN A MAZE I CREATED...
...BUT PAIN AND SUFFERING WILL BE THEIR SOLE REWARD.
G-GRANDFATHER...
푸득
IT'S GETTING LATE, YUNA. WHY DON'T YOU GET UP, NOW?


LOOK...YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY SO MUCH.
CHUN WON'T BE SO EASILY DEFEATED! HE'S THE STRONGEST WARRIOR I KNOW!
BESIDES... WHY DOES HE NEED GLORY WHEN HE HAS HIS WOMAN AND CHILD WAITING FOR HIM?
HUH...? BUT HOW DID YOU...?!


NEVER MIND THAT. NOW CALM YOURSELF...IF NOT FOR YOUR SAKE, THEN THE CHILD'S.


GRANDFATHER...I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? WHY DO I HAVE THIS FEELING OF DREAD?

THERE IS NO WAY I WILL LOSE!

IT WAS FOR THIS MOMENT THAT I'VE TRAINED SO LONG AND HARD!
BUT THIS IS NOT ABOUT THE GLORY OF BEING CALLED THE "WORLD'S GREATEST SWORDSMAN"...NOR THE OWNERSHIP OF THE BLADE. NO...I DO THIS FOR LOVE. I SEEK ONLY TO GAIN THE LOVE OF ONE WOMAN!
YOU HEAR ME, SA MANG SA GATEWAY?! NOT EVEN HELL ITSELF CAN KEEP ME FROM HER!!
YOUR REIGN OF TERROR IS OVER!!

THE COMPETITORS THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN THE STRONGEST YET!
IT'S HIGH NOON. THE GATEWAY WILL SOON BE GONE!
I'M NOT SURE WHO THE LAST TWO ARE, BUT THEY'RE BOTH DOING EXTREMELY WELL! THEY'RE CURRENTLY HEADING TOWARDS THE LAST GATEWAY!
TELL ME! HOW MANY FATALITIES HAVE THERE BEEN?
S-SIR...?
UH...UM... THERE ARE 132 INJURED, 261 DEAD.
HOWEVER, EXCEPT FOR THE TWO NEAR THE END, THE OTHERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH THE OTHER GATEWAYS. I DOUBT THEY WILL LAST MUCH LONGER...
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
EACH GATEWAY I ENCOUNTER GETS HARDER AND HARDER TO BREAK...
BUT I CAN DO IT...FOR HER...
HUFF!
I JUST HAVE TO BREAK THROUGH THIS ONE...
!!

WHAT...? SOMEONE IS ALREADY HERE...?
CHUN... NO!
GIVE IT UP, OLD FRIEND. YOUR BODY'S TOO INJURED TO SUCCESS-FULLY BREAK THROUGH THE GATEWAY!
NO...I... I WON'T GIVE UP...!
TH-THIS IS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH I CAN SHOW HER MY LOVE!

IF YOU KNOW ME AT ALL--THEN YOU KNOW I WON'T HESITATE TO KILL YOU!
TAN, IN YOUR CURRENT STATE, IT'LL BE SUICIDE!!
I...I KNOW.
YUNA... SHE IS IN LOVE WITH YOU.
NOT ONLY THAT...
...NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRAIN, NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY--I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SURPASS YOU, CHUN.
THE MOMENT I OPEN THIS DOOR, I AM WALKING INTO CERTAIN DEATH. BUT THIS LAST, DESPERATE ACT OF REBELLION IS ALL I HAVE LEFT...
ZIIIH
OH

TAN!! LOOK OUT!! DEATH SNAKES!!
Sonic Death Snakes: Poisonous snokes whose attacks ore bosed on sound.
CHUN!! NO!!
WHY ...?
WHY DID YOU...?

CHUN!! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
BLADE OF HEAVEN 6
END

175

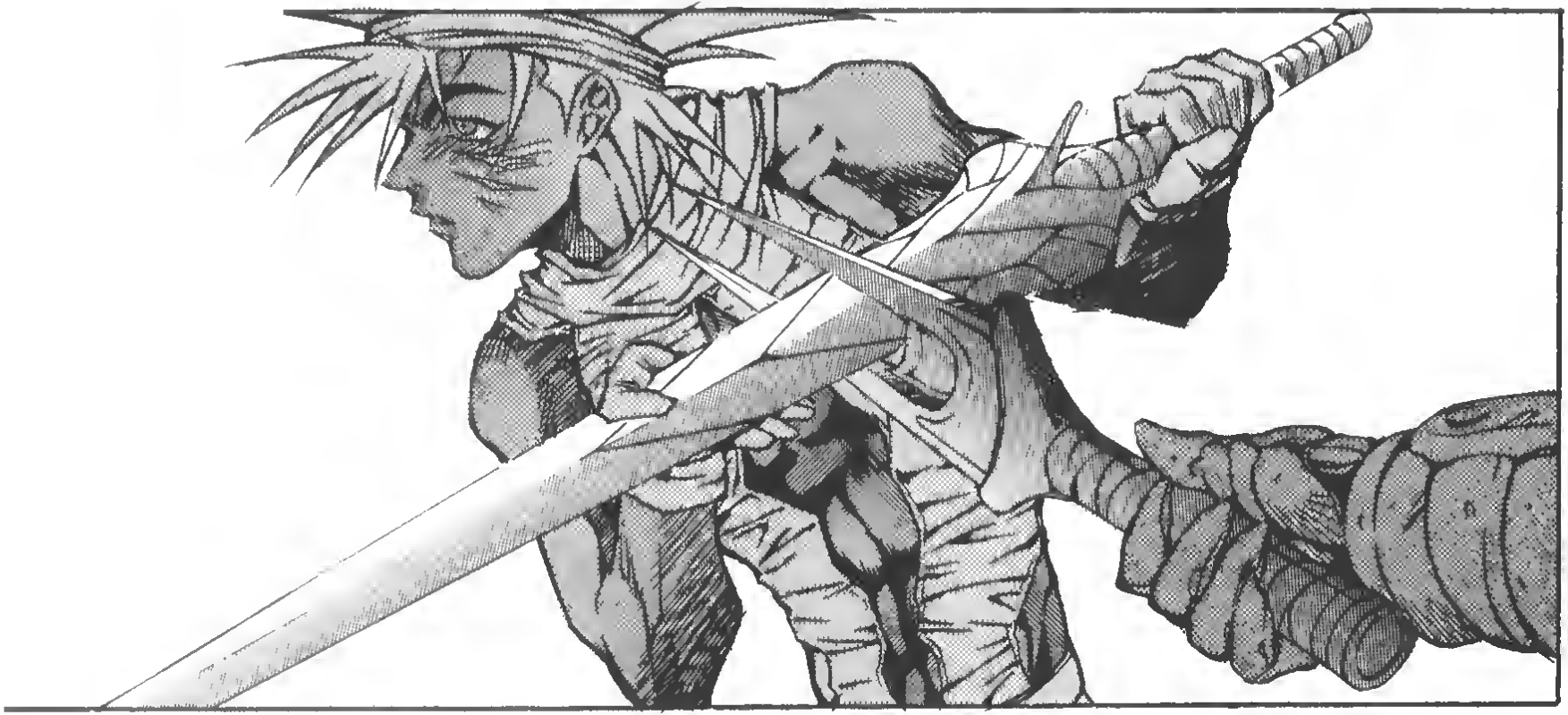
IN THE NEXT BONE-CRUNCHING VOLUME OF

BLADE OF HEAVEN

DEEP WITHIN THE DEADLY HALLWAYS OF THE SUNKEN CASTLE, SOMA BATTLES THE FIERCE GUARDIANS OF THE GATEWAY, WHILE THE SPITEFUL KAY WAITS FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXACT HIS REVENGE UPON OUR HERO. MEANWHILE, AT NORTH GATE, MAKUMARNG REVEALS TO HIS KWANGMA DEVIL FORM AND THREATENS TO KILL AYUHA-JUST AS HE HAD WARNED HER HE MIGHT. ALSO IN THIS VOLUME, WE ARE GIVEN A STARTLING REVELATION REGARDING THE LATE GENERAL WINTER AND THE GREGARIOUS LITTLE GRANNY!

GET READY TO RUMBLE IN

BLADE OF HEAVEN VOLUME 7!



quick release by KickTheKitty